Career Destruction Sites

What U.S. colleges have become

by Gene A. Nelson

As the father of two daughters, one already in college and the second entering college in the fall of 2006, I have grave concerns about the post 1976 transformation of American colleges and universities. In summary, many institutions of higher education have been transformed into supply nodes for "fresh (inexpensive) young blood," so that more experienced American citizens may be permanently displaced from their technology-based positions.

Passage of the obscure "Eilberg Amendment" made 1976 a watershed year for higher education. This legislation was procured via yet undisclosed considerations to the late U.S. Rep. Joshua Eilberg (D-PA) from the Association of American Universities (AAU), a trade group for highly ranked colleges and universities. This change in immigration law permitted these employers to hire unlimited numbers of foreign nationals as professors and researchers, with the institution in total control of the wages and working conditions of the foreign worker. The university did *not* have to attest that they were maintaining the wages and working conditions of American citizens (who foot most of the bills either directly via tuition or indirectly via government subsidies, including grants). In a phone conversation with him, I shared my belief that Representative Eilberg will be recognized as a key architect of the destruction of the American scientific and engineering establishment. In 1978, Eilberg was voted out of the House in connection with an unrelated scandal involving kickbacks and Hahnemann Hospital. He died in 2004.

The Eilberg Amendment was cited as precedent for the Immigration Act of 1990, which extended the ability of the private sector employer to set the wages and working conditions for an immigrant via the newly created H-1B visa program. The employer-designed program gave the employer this kind of leverage since the visa required that the immigrant be continuously employed in order legally to remain in the U.S. Furthermore, the employer could sponsor the immigrant for permanent residency, a very powerful incentive. Prior to passage, U.S. Representative John Bryant of Dallas raised objections on the House floor, correctly identifying the destructive potential of the legislation to the U.S. middle class. Regrettably, in post-Watergate Washington, the "soft rustle" of lobbyist campaign contributions quickly overcomes all reasoned arguments. The initial legislation was allegedly "temporary" but has been progressively expanded in size and scope since 1990. The U.S. workforce protections that were originally part of the law were quickly removed via executive branch actions. What scant protections remain are intentionally hobbled by a lack of enforcement resources.

As researcher Edwin Rubenstein's Fall, 1999, investigative *American Outlook* article "Piled Higher and Deeper" disclosed, colleges and universities create student openings in post-bachelor-level technical degree programs largely to meet internal needs for high skill, poorly paid teaching and research positions. Most institutions are indifferent to the talent gluts that they create, except as beneficiaries of the resultant labor pool. One example of the consequences of these policies: this author taught very demanding anatomy and physiology courses at Collin County Community College in 1995 with compensation at approximately the minimum wage level. At the time, I had a decade of relevant biomedical employment subsequent to earning my natural sciences doctorate.

The special visa program has become an important lobbying priority for employer interests, with proxy groups

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These changes affect the entire economy. The U.S. Census Bureau maintains Current Population Survey tabulations regarding family income inequality and the influence of income by educational attainment and gender. Family income inequality is summarized by Gini ratios.[1] The bigger the ratio, the greater the inequality. The rich get richer and the poor get poorer. From 1968 to 2001, the ratio has steadily increased (See chart). For all except the economic elite, workers' incomes now peak between age 40 and 50 and then decline until retirement. Both of these negative trends are fueled by the substitution of younger foreign workers for American citizens (who must train their replacements as a condition of receiving their meager outplacement benefits.)

such as ITAA (Information Technology Association of America) and CompeteAmerica established to maintain and expand this legislation. In 2002, Nobel economics laureate and free market advocate Milton Friedman critically noted: "There is no doubt…that the (H-1B) program is a benefit to their employers, enabling them to get workers at a lower wage, and to that extent, it is a subsidy."

The Bush Administration uses bogus "studies" such as TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) to create the false impression that the United States does not have a large domestic supply of scientists, engineers, and programmers. These false "studies" are a smoke screen for accepting millions of lobbying dollars from employers to bloat these Federal subsidy programs even further.

A modern corollary of Gresham's Law that "bad money drives out good" is that "imported special-visa labor drives out domestic labor." The National Institutes of Health is by far the largest federal supplier of research and development grants. Examination of the top 100 grantees for 2003 shows that all hired H-1B immigrants during the three fiscal years starting October 1, 1999 (See full-page listing). Total hiring was 40,540 – numbers comparable to the entire workforce of a city of 100,000 population. In 2003, the taxpayers paid $15.8 billion in grants to the institutions. Those resources are not creating opportunities for American citizens.

Caltech Vice Provost David Goodstein summarized the problem in a 1993 *American Scholar* article: "The American taxpayer (both state and federal) is supporting extremely expensive research universities whose main educational purpose is to train students from abroad. When these students finish their educations, they either stay here, taking relatively high-paying jobs that could have gone to Americans, or they go home, taking our knowledge and our technology with them…. Congress and the public doesn't seem to have noticed that, while largely ignoring our own students, we are putting our money and our best talent into training our economic competitors. Just wait until this one hits the fan." •

[Background information is from www.zazona.com/ShameH1B. On the issue of employers seeking inexpensive labor at the expense of national interests see Professor Matloff's paper at: heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/itaa.html. H-1B usage statistics are from www.H1b.info/lca_search.php. Please select "all years" for the fiscal year. For data from earlier years use the "advanced search" capability at: www.zazona.com/LCA-Data/AdvQuery.asp.]

NOTE

1. The Gini ratio, invented by the Italian statistician Corado Gini, is a number between zero and one that measures the degree of inequality in the distribution of income in a given society. The coefficient would register zero (0.0 = minimum inequality) for a society in which each member received exactly the same income and it would register a coefficient of one (1.0 = maximum inequality) if one member got all the income and the rest got nothing.

pdf on NIH awards on this page....

U.S. College Campuses have become "Career Destruction Factories" by Dr. Gene Nelson

This is a one page summary of H-1B usage between FY 2001 and FY 2003 by the top 100 National Institutes of Health (NIH) awardees, who obtained **$15,854,763,774** ($15.8 billion) in grants in FY 2003 alone.

The **40,540** total H-1B visas is about the same as the total workforce of a U.S. town of 100,000 population. The Bush Administration uses bogus "studies" such as TIMSS which create the false impression that the U.S. does not have a large domestic supply of scientists, engineers, and programmers. These false "studies" are a smoke screen for accepting millions of lobbying dollars from employers to make these "Federal subsidy programs" even more bloated.

This is an example of a conflict of interest and a gross mis-use of our Federal tax dollars as the Federal policies have contributed to the permanent career displacement of millions of U.S. citizens. See the background information at http://www.zazona.com/ShameH1B/

Fundamentally, this is an issue of employers seeking inexpensive skilled labor, even if it harms the interests of the United States as a nation. See Professor Matloff's paper at: heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/itaa.html

H-1B visa usage is from www.H1b.info. The search function is at http://www.h1b.info/lca_search.php. Please select "all years" for the fiscal year. For data from earlier years, use the "advanced search" capability at www. ZaZona.com found at http://www.zazona.com/LCA-Data/AdvQuery.asp

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Substitute @ for the AT shown.

NIH Awards to All Institutions by Award Rank 1-100 FY 2003
With H-1B Usage FY 2001 - FY 2003

Rank	H-1Bs	Organization
1	1,095	JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY
2	583	UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON
3	2,051	UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA
4	335	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO
5	272	SCIENCE APPLICATIONS INTERNATIONAL CORP
6	529	WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
7	958	UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
8	585	UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
9	232	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA LOS ANGELES
10	871	DUKE UNIVERSITY
11	1,028	YALE UNIVERSITY
12	670	HARVARD UNIVERSITY
13	51	BOSTON UNIVERSITY CHARLES RIVER CAMPUS
14	2,495	COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
15	349	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA SAN DIEGO
16	805	STANFORD UNIVERSITY
17	501	MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL
18	230	UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA CHAPEL HILL
19	1,166	BAYLOR COLLEGE OF MEDICINE
20	103	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA AT BIRMINGHAM
21	139	UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON
22	180	UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
23	483	VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
24	491	CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY
25	260	BRIGHAM AND WOMEN'S HOSPITAL
26	115	FRED HUTCHINSON CANCER RESEARCH CENTER
27	372	SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
28	312	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MEDICAL BR GALVESTON
29	448	EMORY UNIVERSITY
30	856	UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO
31	527	UNIVERSITY OF COLORADO HLTH SCIENCES CTR
32	375	UNIVERSITY OF IOWA
33	113	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SW MED CTR/DALLAS
34	611	UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
35	524	CORNELL UNIVERSITY
36	243	OREGON HEALTH & SCIENCE UNIVERSITY
37	1,167	MOUNT SINAI SCHOOL OF MEDICINE OF NYU
38	710	NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY
39	9	YESHIVA UNIVERSITY
40	242	UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER
41	402	UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA
42	272	MAYO CLINIC ROCHESTER
43	1,452	NEW YORK UNIVERSITY
44	162	UNIVERSITY OF UTAH
45	274	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS MD ANDERSON CAN CTR
46	485	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT CHICAGO
47	245	UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND BALT PROF SCHOOL
48	961	INDIANA UNIVERSITY
49	313	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA DAVIS
50	148	UNIV OF MED/DENT NJ NEWARK
51	285	DANA-FARBER CANCER INSTITUTE
52	137	WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
53	217	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE
54	345	OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY
55	427	UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
56	253	BETH ISRAEL DEACONESS MEDICAL CENTER
57	73	WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE FOR BIOMEDICAL RES
58	308	UNIV OF MASSACHUSETTS MED SCH WORCESTER
59	302	UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI
60	322	UNIVERSITY OF MIAMI CORAL GABLES
61	709	UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA
62	131	UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BERKELEY
63	190	MEDICAL COLLEGE OF WISCONSIN
64	358	MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
65	165	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR HOUSTON
66	463	SLOAN-KETTERING INSTITUTE FOR CANCER RES
67	131	MEDICAL UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA
68	434	WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY
69	143	DARTMOUTH COLLEGE
70	75	CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL (BOSTON)
71	1,432	PENNSYLVANIA STATE UNIVERSITY
72	41	UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS HLTH SCI CTR SAN ANT
73	232	THOMAS JEFFERSON UNIVERSITY
74	711	UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
75	19	CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL OF PHILADELPHIA
76	257	GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY
77	250	ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY
78	370	TULANE UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA
79	329	UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT
80	261	VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY
81	361	CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL MED CTR (CINCINNATI)
82	236	TUFTS UNIVERSITY MEDFORD
83	299	STATE UNIVERSITY NEW YORK STONY BROOK
84	169	UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
85	57	UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT & ST AGRIC COLLEGE
86	224	RUTGERS THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NJ
87	60	WESTAT, INC.
88	307	ST. JUDE CHILDREN'S RESEARCH HOSPITAL
89	386	UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE HEALTH SCI CTR
90	1	VAXGEN, INC.
91	80	GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
92	93	STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BUFFALO
93	7	SOCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC SYSTEMS
94	59	JACKSON LABORATORY
95	83	UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO
96	58	BROWN UNIVERSITY
97	232	UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI COLUMBIA
98	469	UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN
99	181	BATTELLE MEMORIAL INSTITUTE
100	8	NEW YORK STATE PSYCHIATRIC INSTITUTE
Totals	**40,540**	