

# 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

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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



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.<sup>1</sup> 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](http://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](http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/itaa.html). H-1B usage statistics are from [www.H1b.info/lca\\_search.php](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/LCA-Data/AdvQuery.asp](http://www.zazona.com/LCA-Data/AdvQuery.asp).]

NOTE

1. The Gini ratio, invented by the Italian statistician Corrado 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](http://heather.cs.ucdavis.edu/itaa.html)

H-1B visa usage is from [www.H1b.info](http://www.H1b.info). The search function is at [http://www.h1b.info/lca\\_search.php](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](http://www.ZaZona.com) found at <http://www.zazona.com/LCA-Data/AdvQuery.asp>

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# NIH Awards to All Institutions by Award Rank 1-100 FY 2003

## With H-1B Usage FY 2001 - FY 2003

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