INTERNATIONAL STUDENT LANDSCAPE IN THE U.S.

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PRESENTATION OVERVIEW

• Immigration challenges

• Value of international students and scholars beyond direct economic contributions

• Tulane case study

• State level support for international students
VISA PROCESS

• Dedicated staff ensure compliance with federal immigration regulations, including English level verification and proof of financial support

• Department of State issues visas

• Customs and Border Protection decides whether to admit the international student at the port of entry – if there are concerns, they are not admitted

• All international students are tracked through DHS’ Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS): students must check in when they arrive on campus; the school must register them in SEVIS upon arrival and update each term/semester
IMMIGRATION CHALLENGES
Many government processes are taking longer, which creates uncertainty and costs money for universities.

For example:

- I-17 process
- Visa process
- OPT process
- H-1B process
IMMIGRATION CHANGES

Significant immigration changes have occurred that impact international students and scholars.

These changes include:

- Travel ban 3.0 (currently in effect)
- More visa scrutiny, denials and delays
- Increased consequences for F1/J1 individuals who violate their immigration status.
- Increased USCIS scrutiny of applications for benefits
- An increase in RFEs and denials of applications to USCIS
- Changes in visa processing for Chinese citizens
IMPACT

- Some international students are choosing not to come to the U.S. to study.
- Some international students want to study in the U.S., but are prevented from doing so because of visa delays, etc.
- Some international students and scholars report stress and anxiety due to immigration changes, which can impact their academic success.
- More international office staff time spent understanding immigration changes (stepping back from non-compliance activities, such as programming to support students).
VALUE OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS BEYOND DIRECT ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS
International students created or supported **over 455,000 U.S. jobs.** That's three jobs for every seven international students.
Nearly one-quarter of the founders of the $1 billion U.S. startup companies first came to America as international students.
SCIENTIFIC DISCOVERY

For America to remain the leader in scientific discovery, we must continue to attract the best and brightest from around the world.
In 2016, **all six American winners of the Nobel Prizes** in economics and scientific fields were immigrants. **Immigrants have been awarded 40% of the Nobel Prizes** won by Americans in chemistry, medicine, and physics since 2000.
INNOVATION

U.S. productivity is generated largely by advances in technological improvements. Technological improvements are largely driven by the rate of innovation.
"It is interesting to see how our backgrounds shape us…but, also, it's interesting for the U.S. students that are here to have me as a classmate because they can see how I see life and how things are from a different point of view."

- Andres Arango Vallejo, MBA Student, Colombia
"And I think in today's world where the cliché is that it’s becoming flatter every day, if you're not preparing students to deal with people from different cultures, you're not preparing them to be successful in the real world."

Satyajit Dattagupta
Vice President for Enrollment Management
India
"I come from a country with a virtually non-existent healthcare system. People just dying from preventable stuff like lack of clean water, sanitation...very basic human needs. So I have this perspective of how precious life is and how people sometimes take healthcare for granted. That's why I have a really strong passion for health - because I come from somewhere where it's very unavailable.

What I like about Tulane and this community as a whole is that people know what they want and they form their own path. They actually have their own aspirations and their own goals. I want to be a doctor and I want to go back home one day to successfully change the healthcare system. That's my dream. Hopefully I can achieve part of it one day."

Kennis Htet, Undergraduate Student, Myanmar
TULANE CASE STUDY
OISS STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS, FALL 2018

- H1B & TN, 113, 7%
- J1 Scholars, 126, 7%
- J1 Students, 128, 7%
- F1 OPT, 217, 12%
- F1, 1189, 67%
2017 vs 2018 New Students = 12% Drop, or -107 Students

Non-Degree
UG
Grad
Losses Among Top 10 Countries

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Year 2017

Year 2018
TULANE’S RESPONSE

• Diversifying recruitment
• Advocacy in DC
• International Partners Outreach Group brings together faculty/staff from across campus to figure out how to best support international students
• International immigration counsel for international and undocumented/ DACA students and scholars
• Emergency fund created
STATE LEVEL SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS
Use NAFSA’s International Student Economic Value Tool
www.nafsa.org/economicvalue to understand national, state, and congressional-district level data.
EXAMPLES OF STATE LEVEL ISSUES

- **Language access** for police and courts. Ex: training for police so that they know that children or abusers should never be translators.

- **Doctors**: encourage the use of the Conrad program for doctors to help meet our medical crisis. Burdensome processes for 212e waivers for physicians create challenges in hiring doctors.

- **Driver’s Licenses**: to be welcoming to international students and business/commerce interests, make getting a driver’s license easier. Ex: a shell executive coming from the Netherlands has to take a driving class.
HIGHER EDUCATION COALITION

If a statewide higher education coalition does not yet exist in your state, consider meeting with higher education leaders to propose the idea. The coalition can serve to:

1. Coordinate international recruitment efforts and reduce redundancies.
2. Promote the value of your state as a study destination (and a place to work after graduation).

Example coalitions: Alabama, Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland
As state legislation is being considered, consult with higher education leaders about any potential impacts. Additionally, some regulations that specifically cite international students and scholars, such as driver’s license regulations, have inaccurate information that impacts driver’s license issuance. Update language for regulations that are not accurate.
ADVOCACY

Consider advocacy efforts in Washington as a state or larger group (such as the NCSL) to convey the value of international education and the negative impact of some of the immigration changes that have occurred.
SOURCES

- http://www.nafsa.org/Policy_and_Advocacy/Policy_Resources/Policy_Trends_and_Data/International_Students_Contribute_to_Our_Economy_and_American_Innovation/

- https://2016.export.gov/industry/education/eg_main_022048.asp

- http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/issue_brief_maintaining_attracting_intl_students_091418.pdf

- http://www.nafsa.org/_/File/_/ad_student_contribution_2.pdf

- www.nafsa.org/economicvalue