



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 19, 2013

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## **PARTNERSHIP FOR A NEW AMERICAN ECONOMY AND NATIONAL IMMIGRATION FORUM LEAD NATIONWIDE “DAY OF ACTION” AT COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES TO PUSH FOR COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM**

*More Than 75 Schools Hold Events in 35 States and the District of Columbia to Push for Immigration Policies that Will Attract and Retain the World’s Leading Minds*

As part of a nationwide effort led by the Partnership for a New American Economy and the National Immigration Forum’s Bibles, Badges, and Business, more than 75 colleges and universities on Friday are holding events and rallies on campuses across the country to call on Congress to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation. The “Day of Action,” which is taking place in 35 states and the District of Columbia, is the result of a [March 6<sup>th</sup> letter](#) from the Presidents of Cornell University, Arizona State University, and Miami Dade College that urged their fellow education leaders to join them in the push for smart immigration reform that will attract and retain the world’s best and brightest.

Participating schools (see full list below) have organized a number of different events to highlight the impact of immigration policy on their ability to educate and innovate. These events include presidential addresses, petition drives, documentary screenings, and panel discussions with faith leaders, law enforcement officials, and business executives. Some schools have also organized digital campaigns to drive students, faculty, and local community members to join the [March For Innovation](#), the Partnership’s virtual march on Washington to support immigration reform. Friday’s events came on the heels of the bipartisan Senate Gang of Eight’s introduction of comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

“For years we have been training the world’s best and brightest in our nation’s top schools, only to see our antiquated immigration laws send these students packing to compete against us in the global marketplace,” said **Partnership for a New American Economy Co-Chair and New York City Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg**. “America’s colleges and universities know firsthand that we need immediate action to fix our broken immigration system, so that we not only attract talented people to our shores but also make it possible for them to stay here and contribute to our economy. I thank the students and faculty on campuses across the

country who came together today to make their voices heard, and I urge our leaders in Washington to listen – and act.”

“We need an immigration policy for our time that recognizes that innovation and ideas don’t observe national borders,” said **David J. Skorton, President of Cornell University**. “Our national policy should welcome talented individuals earning advanced degrees at our institutions of higher learning who may want to stay in the U.S., while also encouraging those who will return home to employ the outstanding education they’ve acquired.”

“Our nation has the experience, creativity, and technology to advance thoughtful immigration reform consistent with the founding principle of American equality and the vision needed to strengthen U.S. competitiveness,” said **Michael M. Crow, President of Arizona State University**. “ASU is dedicated to innovating real world solutions to society’s most complex challenges and is proud to help lead this call to action for modern policy capable of improving the future for our graduates and our country.”

“As a nation, we are finally at a turning point on immigration reform,” said **Eduardo J. Padrón, President of Miami Dade College**. “The support of higher education is very important to move this forward. Our campuses will welcome the country’s newest innovators, contributing to the strength of our communities and economy.”

“The National Immigration Forum welcomes the introduction of smart, bipartisan commonsense immigration reform that propels our nation to the front in our effort to compete for global talent,” said **Ali Noorani, Executive Director of the National Immigration Forum**. “The Senate bipartisan proposal recognizes the value of immigrant workers and how our economy needs the skilled engineer as well as the skilled farmworker. Through this legislation, America will staple green cards to STEM degrees, innovators will start companies and our universities and colleges will remain the hotbed of talent and entrepreneurship.”

Colleges and universities across the country are calling for visa reform for students in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields, among other measures in the comprehensive reform bill. Right now, the U.S. economy faces a severe shortage of STEM workers: By 2018, the U.S. will have an estimated 779,000 jobs that require advanced STEM degrees but only an estimated 555,200 advanced-degree STEM holders – a shortage of more than 220,000 workers. They are also urging support for legislation that will allow students to pursue college and work here legally. A 2012 study by the Partnership found that passage of the DREAM Act would add 1.4 million jobs and generate \$329 billion in economic activity over the next 20 years.

#### *About the Partnership for a New American Economy*

The Partnership for a New American Economy brings together more than 500 Republican, Democratic, and Independent mayors and business leaders who support immigration reforms that will help create jobs for Americans today. The Partnership’s members include mayors of more than 35 million people nationwide and business leaders of companies that generate more than \$1.5 trillion and employ more than 4 million people across all sectors of the

economy. Partnership members understand that immigration is essential to maintaining the productive, diverse and flexible workforce that America needs to ensure prosperity over the coming generations. Learn more at [www.RenewOurEconomy.org](http://www.RenewOurEconomy.org).

## **PARTICIPATING COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES**

- Arizona State University
- Bluegrass Community and Technical College
- Brown University
- California State University – Fresno
- California State University – Long Beach
- California State University – San Bernardino
- Canton Community College
- Cerritos College
- College of Southern Nevada
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University/Barnard
- Cornell University
- Creighton University
- Drake University
- Drexel University
- East Los Angeles College
- Fordham University
- Georgetown University
- George Washington University
- The Graduate Center – CUNY
- Hofstra University
- Illinois Institute of Technology
- Iowa State University
- James Madison University
- Miami Dade College
- Montana State University
- New Mexico Highlands University
- The New School
- Ohio State University
- Oxnard College
- Pima Community College
- Portland State University
- Purdue University
- Ripon College
- Rutgers University
- San Diego State University
- Santa Barbara City College
- Stanford University
- SUNY Geneseo
- Swarthmore College
- Syracuse University
- Texas A&M University Commerce
- Texas State University – San Marcos
- UCLA
- UC Berkeley
- University of Alabama – Birmingham
- University of California – Davis
- University of Colorado – Denver
- University of Florida – Gainesville
- University of Illinois – Chicago
- University of Illinois – Springfield
- University of Iowa
- University of Kansas
- University of Kentucky
- University of Maine School of Law
- University of Michigan
- University of Minnesota – Twin-Cities
- University of Missouri – Kansas City
- University of Nevada – Las Vegas
- University of New Hampshire
- University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
- University of Notre Dame
- University of Southern California
- University of South Carolina
- University of Tennessee – Knoxville
- University of Texas – Austin
- University of Texas – Brownsville
- University of Utah
- University of Washington – Seattle
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh

- Utah Valley University
- Valparaiso University
- Vanderbilt University
- Washington State University
- Washington State University –  
Vancouver
- Western Kentucky University
- West Virginia University
- Yakima Valley Community College

