



# IMMIGRATION & INNOVATION:

The Impact of Immigrant Inventors and Business Leaders on American Prosperity

For generations, hard-working immigrants have come to the United States, started their own companies and created millions of American jobs. Foreign-born entrepreneurs, scientists and inventors have been vital to establishing America as a world leader in business, technology and innovation. Yet, America's immigration system too often blocks future leaders from bringing their talent and hard work to help build the American economy. To remain a leader in an increasingly competitive global economy, the United States must attract and keep the best, brightest, and hardest working people from all corners of the world.

The economic impact of immigrant entrepreneurs ranges from family businesses that dot the street corners of small towns to major companies that have become cornerstones of their industries. Immigrant inventors stimulate the economy, creating new technologies and products that are sold around the world. In fact, some of the American companies that helped build and define the modern economy - including Google, Yahoo!, Intel, and eBay - were founded by immigrants. In recent years, immigrants were nearly twice as likely to start a new business as individuals born in the United States.<sup>1</sup>

To create new jobs in the 21st century and maintain its economic dominance on the world stage, the United States must promote policies that encourage talented immigrants with fresh ideas to come to America and work to build a better future for generations to come.

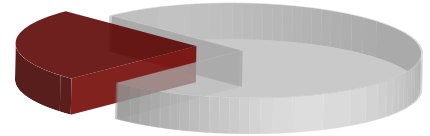
## OVER ONE DECADE, IMMIGRANT FOUNDED VENTURES CREATED:

**450,000 JOBS** AND REPRESENTED A MARKET CAPITALIZATION OF ROUGHLY **\$500 BILLION**<sup>2</sup>

## IMMIGRANT ENTREPRENEURS START NEW BUSINESSES AND CREATE JOBS:

**25%**

OF TECHNOLOGY AND ENGINEERING COMPANIES FROM 1995 TO 2005 HAD AT LEAST ONE IMMIGRANT KEY FOUNDER<sup>3</sup>



## HIGH-SKILLED IMMIGRANTS WORK IN AREAS THAT PROMOTE JOB GROWTH:



## FIVE ADDITIONAL JOBS ARE CREATED

FOR EVERY HIGH-SKILLED VISA (H1B) BECAUSE IMMIGRANTS OFTEN WORK IN R&D AND EXPORTS.<sup>4</sup>

## IMMIGRANT INVENTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY INTERNATIONAL PATENTS:<sup>5</sup>



**72%** OF QUALCOMM'S PATENTS



**65%** OF MERCK'S PATENTS



**64%** OF GE'S PATENTS



**41%** OF GOVERNMENT PATENTS

<sup>1</sup> Robert Fairlie. "Kauffman Index of Entrepreneurial Activity, 1996-2008." University of California, Santa Cruz. April 2009.

<sup>2</sup> Vivek Wadhwa, et al. "America's New Immigrant Entrepreneurs." Report by the Duke School of Engineering and the UC Berkeley School of Information. January 4, 2007.

<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> National Foundation for American Policy, "H-1B Visas and Job Creation," NFAP Policy Brief. March 2008.

<sup>5</sup> Vivek Wadhwa, et al. "Intellectual Property, the Immigration Backlog, and a Reverse Brain-Drain: America's New Immigrant Entrepreneurs, Part III." Report by the Duke School of Engineering, New York University, Harvard Law School and the Kauffman Foundation. August 2007.