September 13, 2012

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave
Washington, D.C. 20500

Sen. Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Sen. Mitch McConnell
Senate Republican Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Hon. John Boehner
Speaker of the House
H-232, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Hon. Nancy Pelosi
Democratic Leader
H-204, US Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. President, Majority Leader Reid, Republican Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner, and Democratic Leader Pelosi:

As leaders of universities educating the creators of tomorrow’s scientific breakthroughs, we call on you to address a critical threat to America’s preeminence as a global center of innovation and prosperity: our inability under current United States immigration policy to retain and benefit from many of the top minds educated at our universities.

From the industrial revolution to today’s information age, the United States has led the world in creating the inventions and ideas that drive economic prosperity. America’s universities are responsible for 36 percent of all research in the country, including 53 percent of all basic research, and they help keep America at the forefront of the 21st century economy. The Federal Government has recognized the importance of university research by providing roughly 60 percent of all academic R&D funding.

American academic research has benefited from the fact that the US remains a top magnet for the world’s best and brightest students and graduates 16 percent of all PhDs worldwide in scientific and technical fields. In 2009, students on temporary visas were 45 percent of all graduate students in engineering, math, computer science and physical sciences – earning 43 percent of all master’s degrees and 52 percent of all PhDs. New research shows that in 2011, foreign-born inventors were credited contributors on more than 75 percent of patents issued to the top 10 patent-producing universities in the United States – irrefutable
proof of the important role immigrants play in American innovation. These inventions lead to new companies and new jobs for American workers, and are an enormous boon to our economy.

But after we have trained and educated these future job creators, our antiquated immigration laws turn them away to work for our competitors in other countries. Low limits on visas leave immigrants with no way to stay or facing untenable delays for a permanent visa. Top engineers from India and China face wait times of up to 9 years to get a permanent visa, and new applicants from these countries may face considerably longer waits. And while we turn away these American-educated, trained and funded scientists and engineers, there is a growing skill gap across America’s industries. One quarter of US science and engineering firms already report difficulty hiring, and the problem will only worsen: the US is projected to face a shortfall of 230,000 qualified advanced-degree workers in scientific and technical fields by 2018.

The US cannot afford to wait to fix our immigration system. Even as we send away highly skilled workers trained at American universities, competing economies are welcoming these scientists and engineers with streamlined visa applications and creating dedicated visas to ensure that the foreign students who graduate from their own universities can stay and contribute to the local economy. We ask you to work together to develop a bipartisan solution that ensures our top international graduates have a clear path to a green card, so they can stay and create new American jobs. Recent polls show that there is broad, bipartisan support for this reform, and that the American people want our leaders in Washington to act. Now is the time to do so and ensure that the US remains the world’s leading home for innovators.

Sincerely,

Cornelius M. Kerwin
President
American University

Michael M. Crow
President
Arizona State University

Clayton Spencer
President
Bates College

Harvey Stenger
President
Binghamton University

Robert Kustra
President
Boise State University

William P. Leahy, S.J.
President
Boston College

Robert A. Brown
President
Boston University

Mary Ellen Mazey
President
Bowling Green State University

Frederick M. Lawrence
President
Brandeis University

Christina H. Paxson
President
Brown University
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
<th>University</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jean-Lou Chameau</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>California Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jared L. Cohon</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Carnegie Mellon University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barbara R. Snyder</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Case Western Reserve University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John H. Garvey</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>The Catholic University of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David P. Angel</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Clark University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anthony G. Collins</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Clarkson University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James F. Barker</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Clemson University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. M. W. Scoggins</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Colorado School of Mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee C. Bollinger</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Columbia University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert A. Kennedy</td>
<td>President, Board of Regents for Higher Ed.</td>
<td>Connecticut State Colleges &amp; Universities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David J. Skorton</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Cornell University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timothy R. Lannon, S.J.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Creighton University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim Yong Kim</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Dartmouth College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Dennis Holtschneider, C.M.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>DePaul University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John A. Fry</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Drexel University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Brodhead</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Duke University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charles J. Dougherty</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Duquesne University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>James W. Wagner</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Emory University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mark B. Rosenberg</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Florida International University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Eric Barron</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Florida State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ángel Cabrera</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>George Mason University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John J. DeGioia</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Georgetown University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Knapp</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>The George Washington University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. P. Peterson</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Georgia Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drew Gilpin Faust</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Harvard University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stuart Rabinowitz</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Hofstra University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John L. Anderson</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Illinois Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Steven Leath</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Iowa State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ronald J. Daniels</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>The Johns Hopkins University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirk H. Schulz</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kansas State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lester A. Lefton</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Kent State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alice P. Gast</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Lehigh University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William L. Jenkins</td>
<td>Interim President</td>
<td>Louisiana State University System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel D. Reneau</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Louisiana Tech University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott R. Pilarz, S.J.</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Marquette University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. Rafael Reif</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Massachusetts Institute of Technology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Raymond Greenberg</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>The Medical University of South Carolina</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David C. Hodge</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Miami University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lou Anna K. Simon</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>Michigan State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donald M. Blackketter</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>Montana Tech of the University of Montana</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daniel J. Klaich</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>Nevada System of Higher Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Sexton</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>New York University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W. Randolph Woodson</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>North Carolina State University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dean L. Bresciani</td>
<td>President</td>
<td>North Dakota State University</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
William G. Goetz
Chancellor
North Dakota University System

Joseph E. Aoun
President
Northeastern University

E. Gordon Gee
President
The Ohio State University

George Pernsteiner
Chancellor
Oregon University System

Edward J. Ray
President
Oregon State University

David W. Leebron
President
Rice University

Marc Tessier-Lavigne
President
The Rockefeller University

Richard L. McCormick
President
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Elliot Hirshman
President
San Diego State University

A. Gabriel Esteban
President
Seton Hall University

Glenn Poshard
President
Southern Illinois University System

R. Gerald Turner
President
Southern Methodist University

John L. Hennessy
President
Stanford University

Nancy L. Zimpher
Chancellor
The State University of New York

Nariman Farvardin
President
Stevens Institute of Technology

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., M.D.
President
Stony Brook University

Nancy Cantor
Chancellor
Syracuse University

Guy Bailey
President
Texas Tech University

Anthony P. Monaco
President
Tufts University

Scott S. Cowen
President
Tulane University

Carol Z. Garrison
President
The University of Alabama at Birmingham

Patrick K. Gamble
President
University of Alaska
George M. Philip
President
University at Albany - SUNY

Eugene G. Sander
President
The University of Arizona

G. David Gearhart
Chancellor
University of Arkansas

Joel E. Anderson
Chancellor
University of Arkansas at Little Rock

Donald R. Bobbitt
President
University of Arkansas System

Satish K. Tripathi
President
University at Buffalo

Robert J. Birgeneau
Chancellor
University of California, Berkeley

Gene D. Block
Chancellor
University of California, Los Angeles

Henry T. Yang
Chancellor
University of California, Santa Barbara

Mark G. Yudof
President
University of California System

John C. Hitt
President
University of Central Florida

Robert J. Zimmer
President
The University of Chicago

Gregory H. Williams
President
University of Cincinnati

Bruce D. Benson
President
University of Colorado

Philip DeStefano
Chancellor
University of Colorado Boulder

Susan Herbst
President
University of Connecticut

Daniel J. Curran
President
University of Dayton

Patrick T. Harker
President
University of Delaware

Robert Coombe
Chancellor
University of Denver

Bernie Machen
President
University of Florida

M. R. C. Greenwood
President
University of Hawai‘i System

M. Duane Nellis
President
University of Idaho
Robert Easter  
President Designate  
University of Illinois

Paula Allen-Meares  
Chancellor  
University of Illinois at Chicago

Susan J. Koch  
Chancellor  
University of Illinois Springfield

Phyllis M. Wise  
Chancellor  
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Sally Mason  
President  
University of Iowa

Bernadette Gray-Little  
Chancellor  
The University of Kansas

Eli Capilouto  
President  
University of Kentucky

James R. Ramsey  
President  
University of Louisville

Wallace D. Loh  
President  
University of Maryland

Freeman A. Hrabowski, III  
President  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County

Robert L. Caret  
President  
University of Massachusetts

Donna E. Shalala  
President  
University of Miami

Mary Sue Coleman  
President  
University of Michigan

Daniel W. Jones  
Chancellor  
The University of Mississippi

Brady J. Deaton  
Chancellor  
University of Missouri-Columbia

Timothy M. Wolfe  
President  
University of Missouri System

James B. Milliken  
President  
University of Nebraska

Harvey Perlman  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska – Lincoln

John Christensen  
Chancellor  
University of Nebraska at Omaha

Marc A. Johnson  
President  
University of Nevada, Reno

Edward R. MacKay  
Chancellor  
University System of New Hampshire

Mark W. Huddleston  
President  
University of New Hampshire
Robert G. Frank
President
The University of New Mexico

Thomas W. Ross
President
The University of North Carolina

Holden Thorp
Chancellor
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Philip L. Dubois
Chancellor
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte

Linda P. Brady
Chancellor
The University of North Carolina at Greensboro

Robert O. Kelley
President
University of North Dakota

Rev. John I. Jenkins, C.S.C.
President
University of Notre Dame

David L. Boren
President
The University of Oklahoma

Robert M. Berdahl
Interim President
University of Oregon

Pamela Eibeck
President
University of the Pacific

Amy Gutmann
President
University of Pennsylvania

David M. Dooley
President
University of Rhode Island

Joel Seligman
President
University of Rochester

Rev. Stephen A. Privett, S.J.
President
University of San Francisco

James W. Abbott
President
The University of South Dakota

C. L. Max Nikias
President
University of Southern California

Judy Genshaft
President
University of South Florida System

William E. Kirwan
Chancellor
University System of Maryland

Jimmy G. Cheek
Chancellor
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

James D. Spaniolo
President
The University of Texas at Arlington

William Powers Jr.
President
The University of Texas at Austin

David E. Daniel
President
University of Texas at Dallas
Giuseppe Colasurdo, M.D.  
President ad interim  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston

Kenneth L. Kalkwarf, DDS, MS  
President ad interim  
The University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio

Ronald DePinho  
President  
The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Robert S. Nelsen  
President  
The University of Texas-Pan American

Ricardo Romo  
President  
The University of Texas at San Antonio

Daniel K. Podolsky  
President  
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center

David W. Pershing  
President  
The University of Utah

A. John Bramley  
Interim President  
The University of Vermont

Teresa A. Sullivan  
President  
University of Virginia

Michael Young  
President  
University of Washington

David Ward  
Interim Chancellor  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

Michael R. Lovell  
Chancellor  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Kevin P. Reilly  
President  
University of Wisconsin System

Tom Buchanan  
President  
University of Wyoming

Stan L. Albrecht  
President  
Utah State University

Nicholas S. Zeppos  
Chancellor  
Vanderbilt University

Nathan O. Hatch  
President  
Wake Forest University

Mark S. Wrighton  
Chancellor  
Washington University in St. Louis

John M. Dunn  
President  
Western Michigan University

James P. Clements, Ph.D.  
President  
West Virginia University

James T. Harris, III  
President  
Widener University
Dennis D. Berkey
President
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Richard C. Levin
President
Yale University

Richard M. Joel
President
Yeshiva University

*Original letter sent on June 26, 2012.*