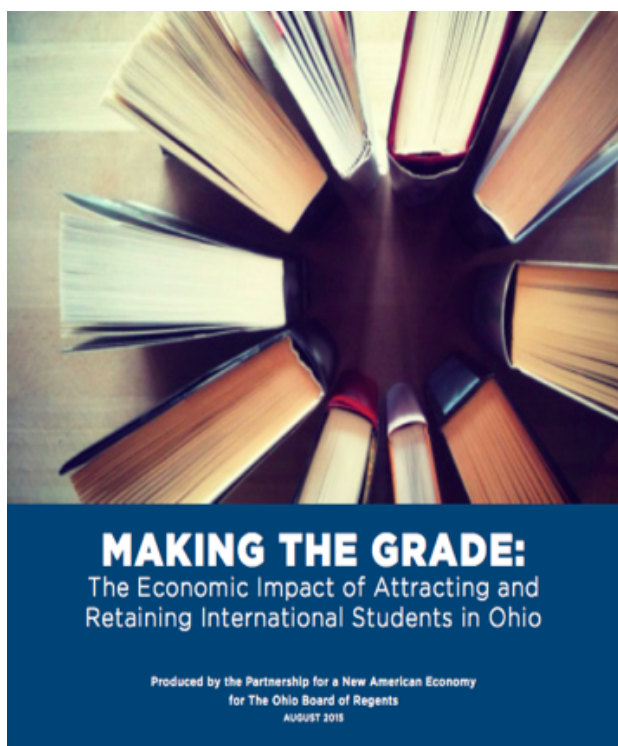


MAKING THE GRADE

ATTRACTING AND RETAINING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS COULD
BENEFIT STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY



A report released in August 2015 by the Partnership for a New American Economy documenting the economic benefits of attracting and retaining international students in Ohio

IN RECENT YEARS many states have expressed concerns about potential brain drain from their states and communities—the phenomenon of college educated individuals leaving the local labor market in search of better jobs and opportunities elsewhere. The Ohio Global Reach to Engage Academic Talent (GREAT) initiative—the focus of a new report released by the Partnership for a New American Economy, *Making the Grade: The Economic Impact of Attracting and Retaining International Students in Ohio*—is one innovative policy that may help Ohio reverse the brain drain that has been an issue for many other states and communities, particularly ones in the Rust Belt. By attracting more foreign-born students to study in the state—and supporting their efforts to remain after graduation as highly-skilled workers—Ohio will be better positioned to reverse population decline and grow the state’s economy. Having sufficient local talent will also make Ohio a stronger magnet for innovative employers looking to expand or lay down roots in the state.

However, while Ohio has already created a program aimed at attracting and retaining international students, many states have yet to take on such initiatives. Below, we look at American Community Survey data from 2009 to 2013 to identify states already experiencing dramatic brain drains that could potentially reverse such trends by embracing initiatives like Ohio’s. We also identify areas that would have seen brain drain in recent years if not for the arrival of foreign-born talent. Such states could potentially benefit further if they created programs that gave greater support to international students hoping to stay.

STATES THAT EXPERIENCED BRAIN DRAIN FROM 2009-2013

There are 20 states that experienced a decline in the number of residents with at least a bachelor's degree between 2009 and 2013. Some cases, like Michigan and Hawaii, were dramatic. These two states each lost on average more than 10,000 such highly educated individuals each year. Meanwhile, in states like Alaska, Missouri, and Ohio, the population with at least a bachelor's degree declined by more than 5,000 people on average each year.

AVERAGE ANNUAL DROP IN STATE RESIDENTS WITH A BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER, 2009-2013

STATE	AVG. ANNUAL DROP IN # OF PEOPLE WITH A B.A. OR HIGHER
HAWAII	-16,940.4
MICHIGAN	-11,401.6
MISSOURI	-6,364.8
ALASKA	-6,232.8
OHIO	-5,379.8
WISCONSIN	-4,509.0
INDIANA	-3,836.2
IOWA	-2,675.2
WEST VIRGINIA	-2,419.2
NORTH DAKOTA	-2,286.8
UTAH	-2,196.6
MISSISSIPPI	-1,387.2
NEBRASKA	-1,277.2
SOUTH DAKOTA	-920.0
VERMONT	-799.4
RHODE ISLAND	-634.4
ALABAMA	-577.8
MONTANA	-404.2
IDAHO	-281.6
WYOMING	-5.4

STATES THAT WOULD HAVE SEEN BRAIN DRAIN IF NOT FOR AN INFLUX OF HIGHLY EDUCATED FOREIGN-BORN PEOPLE

Nine states in the country would have experienced a brain drain if they had not seen an influx of educated, foreign-born individuals in recent years. All these states experienced the loss of U.S.-born talent with a bachelor's degree or more from 2009 to 2013. In New York, for instance, on average more than 14,000 highly-educated native-born individuals with that level of schooling left the state on average each year during the 2009-2013 period. The arrival of an average of more than 29,000 educated foreign-born individuals each year, however, allowed the state to grow its highly educated population by a more than 72,000 between 2009 and 2013.

FLOWS OF EDUCATED INDIVIDUALS, BY NATIVITY, 2009-2013

STATE	TOTAL CHANGE: NATIVE BORN	TOTAL CHANGE: FOREIGN BORN	NET CHANGE WITH B.A.+
NEW YORK	-72,999	145,549	72,550
MASS.	-31,172	77,344	46,172
ILLINOIS	-36,614	79,687	43,073
PENN.	-34,453	66,486	32,033
CONN.	-11,906	26,512	14,606
LOUISIANA	-1,652	10,763	9,111
KANSAS	-1,153	8,945	7,792
N.J.	-50,115	57,730	7,615
