

Two Cents and A Cup of Coffee

Warning!, Jobs Are Headed Out of U.S.! Like many others who follow developments in the US science and engineering workforce and the historical plight of persons of color facing inordinate challenges securing and maintain jobs in tech and related fields, I was pleased to offer comment to a recent opinion piece by Bloomberg Press below.

With Midterms Looming, Biden Risks Losing Support of Big Tech, Black Voters – Bloomberg

One of little know ways tech guest workers benefit from taking a job that could have gone to a US citizen is in paying taxes. Nonresident aliens (with certain narrowly defined exceptions) are taxed only on income derived from sources within the United States and/or income that is effectively connected with a U.S. trade or business. This means outsourced firms can harvest workers in India and China at the detriment of US workers with this incentive. There are many like me who point to “cracks” in the H1B administrative wall.

“This Congress has made very clear, both through its actions and its inaction, that it places Americans last and it places foreign labor and the big corporations that shamelessly exploit it first,” said Rep. Tom McClintock (R., Calif.), ranking Republican of the immigration subcommittee, at a hearing last summer about how high-skilled foreign workers are flocking to Canada because of U.S. immigration policies.”

“Limited immigration options and an increase in remote working have led to warnings from the tech industry that key roles will increasingly go to “offshore” candidates. Industry reps will visit Washington D.C. this week to ask lawmakers to issue more visas to high-skilled tech workers to prevent jobs going elsewhere. Remote jobs in the tech industry have increased by 420% since January 2020, and the home-working options mean candidates can do their jobs from around the world – a particularly attractive option for those who want to work for big U.S. companies but can't secure an American visa.”

Harriet Sinclair, Editor at LinkedIn News

“Expand H1B Visa program to bring in more foreign workers or send tech jobs offshore. What’s better? ...Don’t answer. It’s a false choice! Here’s the best option to close the US tech talent gap: Let’s do a better job of preparing our next generation of developers at home! That’s what we do at SkillStorm. #techtalentgap #techtalent #hiretraindeploy #accelerateopportunity #StormOn”

Vince Virga, Co-Founder and Co-Chairman at SkillStorm

“The American research enterprise must balance indispensability of international scholars and open collaboration with being responsibly vigilant to avoid the Trojan Horse, whether of foreign or domestic origin. Building trust through due diligence is a hallmark of an effective research security program.”

Michael D. Shannon, Private Practice: Policy, Security, Risk, & Compliance Consulting

“How about investing more in American workers ? Plenty of people, including older workers, would welcome the chance to contribute more, if given the chance.”

HERNÁN SALAS MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

“With so much money at stake, it is not surprising that the Cheap Labor Lobby incessantly demands more H-1B visas to be used exploiting both US and foreign STEM workers.”

Ars Lyrica Houston, IEEE-USA Vice President for Career and Member Services

My Two Cents!

Changes in work, education, technology, workforce demographics, and international competition is occurring at 5G speed, and our competitiveness, security, manufacturing, and research enterprise is at risk.

It is essential that our science/engineering enterprise is weaned from its dependency on foreign guest workers across all sectors of production. It hurts America in the long run.

Unfortunately, expanding equitable diversity and inclusion of science and engineering cannot continue as a lofty unmet goal with H1B in the picture. Too many students/workers from China and India take spots on campuses and in research labs that should be occupied by black/brown Americans and women.

American workers -- especially those of color, along with women -- find themselves crowded out of the tech job market through shadow outsourcing schemes. The facts surrounding H-1Bs are shaded in gray with denials of the systemic racism that has poisoned far too many our employment, social policy, and education decisions. There are too many instances where American workers have been required to train guest workers entering under H1B and later have been replaced by these persons under contracts with offshore placement firms.

Recommendations

- Our tech industry and other business segments relying on science and engineering need to be as enthusiastic for transformational diversity and inclusion in their workforce as they are to lowering the cost to recruit and hire guest workers.
- Firms hosting a set number of guest workers should establish paid internships equal in numbers to a percentage of guest workers with 1/3 of internships designated to black/brown/native student workers.
- The US should establish about half-dozen collaborative centers of

science/engineering excellence around the next generation of critical materials and enabling technologies needed to sustain our technically based economy. Each center must include and HBCU or group of HBCUs with essential strengths along with a major university with funds from a consortium of foundations and government.

While not all our subscribers are directly impacted by a fractured H1B program, but there are thousands in the tech workforce who are.



**Lawrence P King, Stem News
Technical Journal, LLC**