

High Skill Guestworker Visas: Programs designed for exploitation, not excellence

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Panel presentation:

Beyond the Border
Why Legal Immigration Numbers Matter
Center for Immigration Studies



Maybe this is a helpful clarification: I am referring to bringing in via legal immigration the top ~0.1% of engineering talent as being essential for America to keep winning.



per Musk: **130 to 309/yr**
is the essential number of new
“super talent” hires
“for America to keep winning.”

A quick tour:

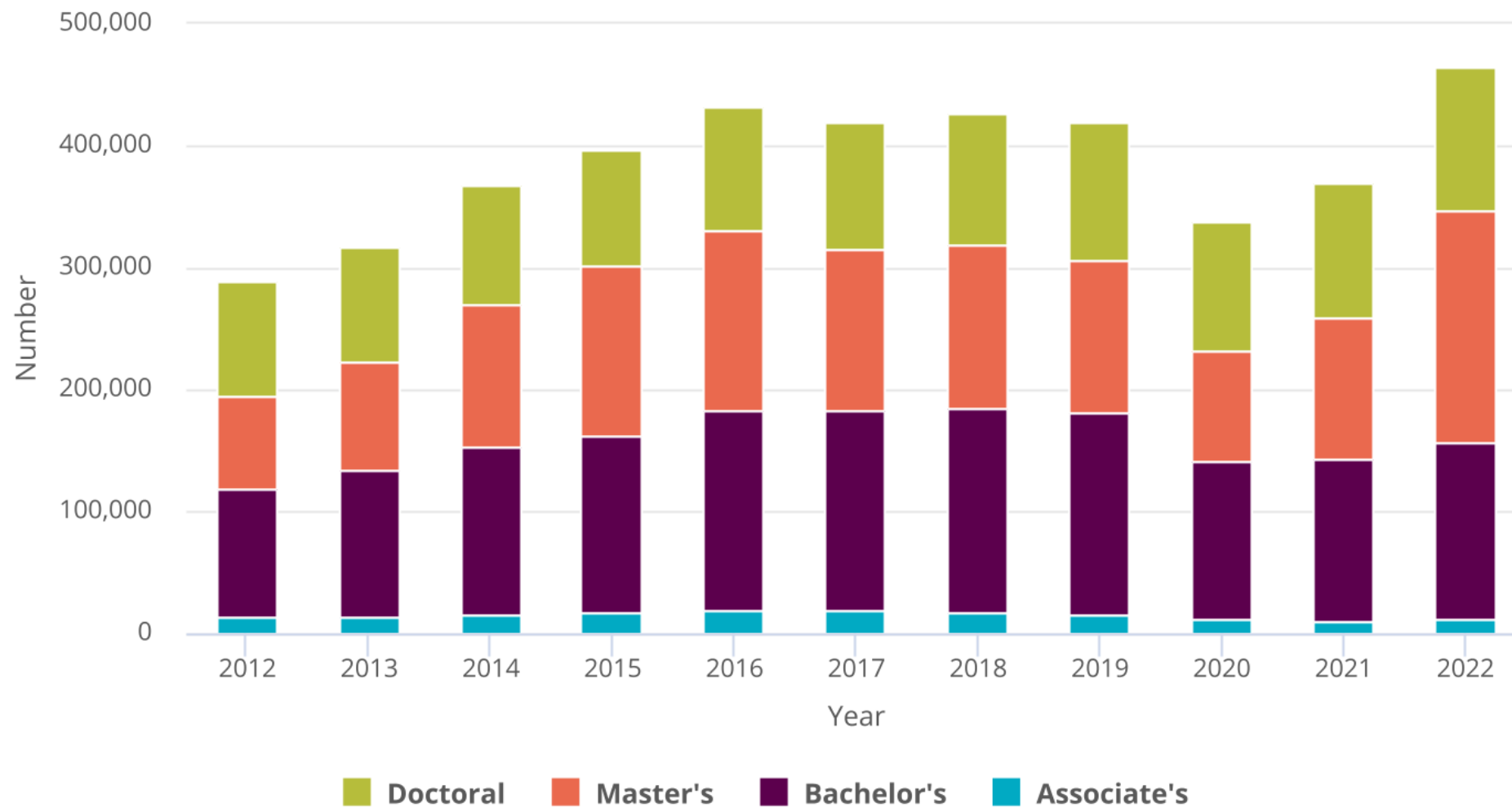
- Guestworker supply
- Education supply
- Supply and the Market
- What is to be done? The 15% Solution
 - Wages
 - Grads

Guestworkers (Annual new issuances) **TOTAL = 727,088**

Annual Numbers and Sources

<i>Visa</i>	<i>Class Description</i>	<i>FY2018 Issuances</i>	
H-1B	Temporary worker—professional specialty occupation	179,660	[recent years=120,000 to 130,000]
H-4	Spouse	40,326	EAD (Work authorization document approved/issued @85%=high skill)
J-1	Cultural exchange visitor	342,639	Not included
L-1	Intracompany transferee	74,388	
L-2	Spouse or child of L-1	21,288	EAD (Work authorization document approved/issued @85%=high skill)
O-1	Person with extraordinary ability in the sciences, arts, education, business, or athletics	16,904	
OPT + CPT	Other nonimmigrant work authorization Optional & Continuing Practical Training	27,783 366,739	
TOTAL		727,088	

International S&E students on temporary visas enrolled in U.S. higher education institutions, by level of enrollment: 2012–22



Note(s):

Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source(s):

NCSES, special tabulations (2022) of the SEVIS database, DHS, ICE.

Colleges get into the game...

CS Masters Programs with largest number of grads on F visa

	F-visa Grads
Wilmington University	1023
The University of Texas at Dallas	941
University of Southern California	923
Carnegie Mellon University	848
New York University	660
Illinois Institute of Technology	557
Southern Arkansas University Main Campus	539
Columbia University in the City of New York	534
University of Florida	507
University of the Cumberland	492
University of Central Missouri	482




Universities practicing segregation?

	F-visa Grads	% of Grads F-visa
Wilmington University	1023	100%
The University of Texas at Dallas	941	100%
University of Southern California	923	100%
Carnegie Mellon University	848	100%
New York University	660	96%
Illinois Institute of Technology	557	90%
Southern Arkansas University Main Campus	539	90%
Columbia University in the City of New York	534	79%
University of Florida	507	77%
University of the Cumberlands	492	93%
University of Central Missouri	482	99%

Discrimination, as a rose by any other name?

Supply Increase: Which colleges supplied 50% of total 5-year increase?

CS Master Graduates – 50% of total F-Visa/F Increase, 2011-2016

InstitutionName	total_cs 2011	2011 F-Visa	total_cs _2016	F-Visa Grads Total	2016 F-visa %	Cum % F-visa delta
 UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL MISSOURI	45	3	1286	1275	99.1%	10.1%
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS	304	242	1071	971	90.7%	15.9%
 SANGAMON STATE (Univ. Of Illinois Springfield)	89	54	651	526	80.8%	19.7%
NEW YORK UNIVERSITY	203	96	754	518	68.7%	23.0%
CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY	580	385	940	735	78.2%	25.8%
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON	57	55	410	391	95.4%	28.5%
TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY-KINGSVILLE	71	69	401	401	100.0%	31.1%
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA	457	391	793	701	88.4%	33.6%
KENT STATE UNIVERSITY AT KENT	27	14	401	320	79.8%	36.0%
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE	89	58	373	338	90.6%	38.2%
UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO	146	127	422	400	94.8%	40.4%
SACRED HEART UNIVERSITY	19	4	270	255	94.4%	42.4%
NEW YORK INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY	94	75	342	316	92.4%	44.3%
 NORTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UNIVERSITY	53	50	292	291	99.7%	46.2%
FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIV-METRO CAMPUS	38	27	273	265	97.1%	48.1%
UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA	11	4	281	232	82.6%	7 49.9%

Sources of *Supply Increase: Which colleges?*

CS Master Graduates – 50% of total F-Visa/F Increase, 2011-2016



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				735	78.2%	25.8%

CSU graduate programs to pass over Californians

By Examiner Staff Aug 15, 2012

Individual campuses can accept out-of-state or international students and collect the higher fees,

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						48.1%
						49.9%



August 12, 2012

Rejected for Being In-State

spring, excluding Californians. But he stressed that this was because even under normal circumstances, his department's graduate program in computer science has 90 percent of its students from outside the United States.

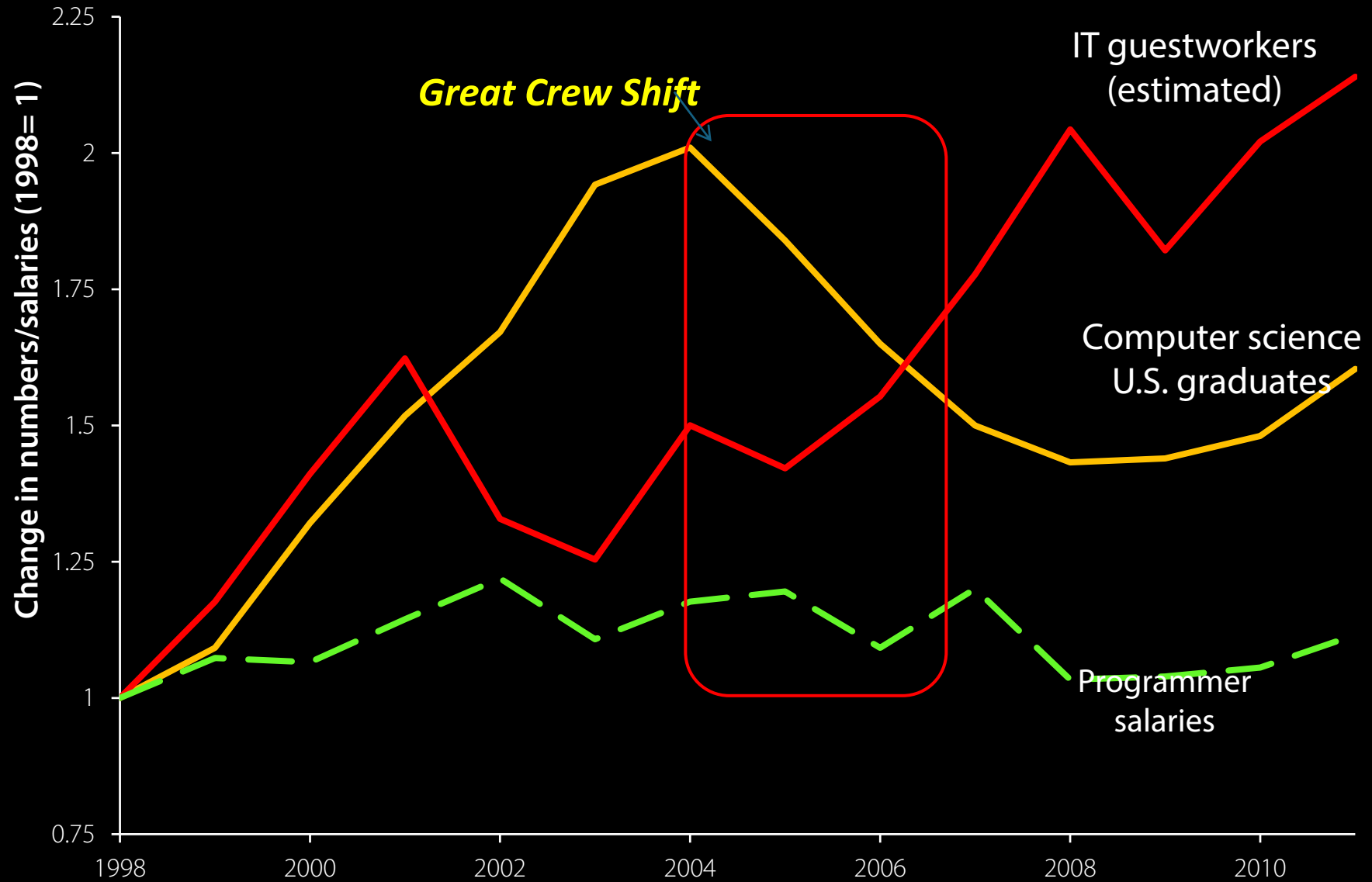


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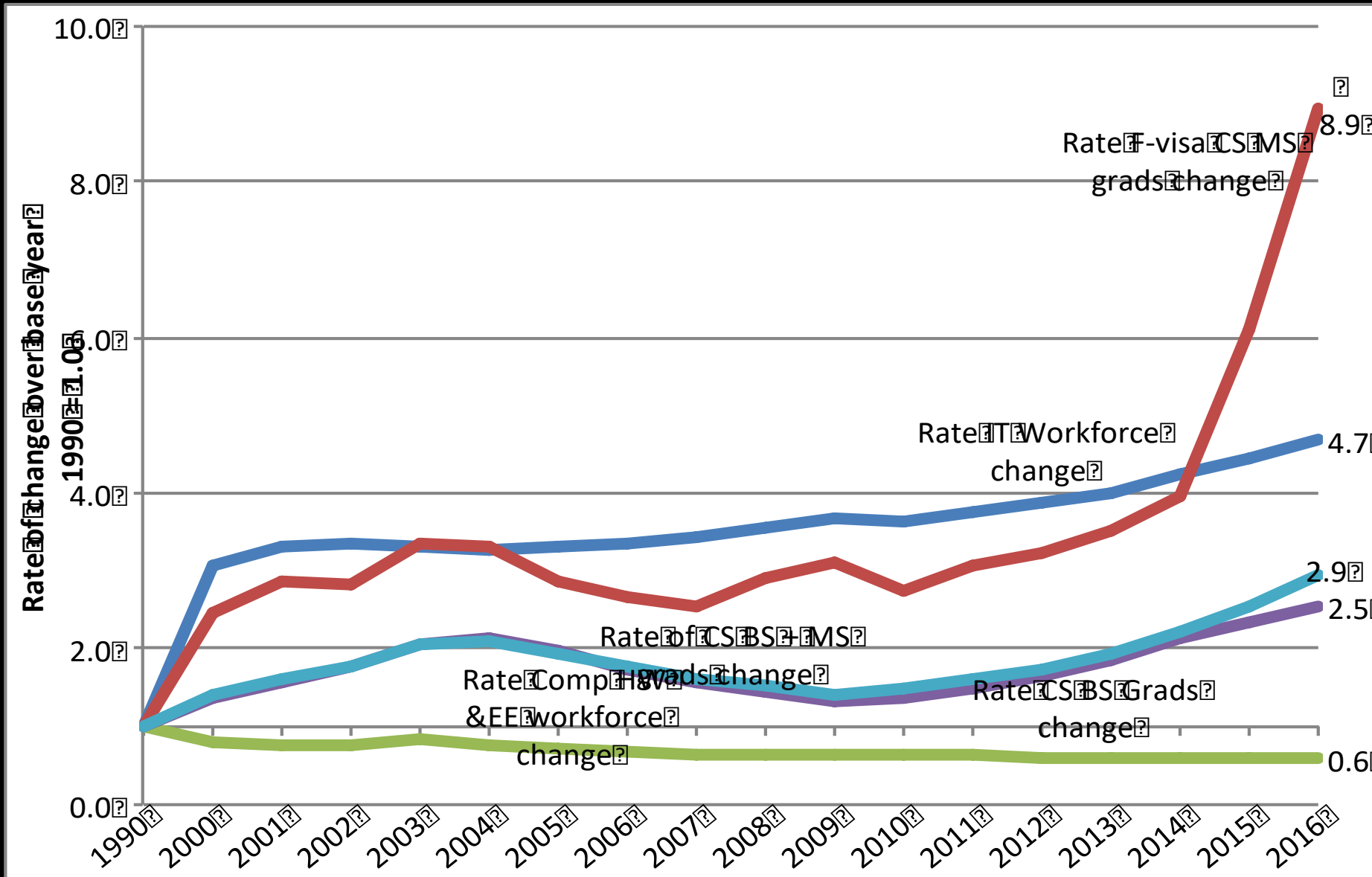
Field Concentration in U.S. Colleges STEM Masters Programs

MASTERS Program/Graduate cohort			
<i>Major</i>	% TOTAL Grads @ F-visa= 50%+	% TOTAL Grads @ F-visa= 75%+	
Computer Science	68%	49%	
Engineering	61%	22%	
Math	65%	39%	
Physical Sciences	12%	2.9%	
Life Sciences	3%	0.4%	
All Other fields	1.2%	0.5%	

Change in programmer salaries and in numbers of U.S. STEM-related graduates and



IT Workforce & CS/EE Graduates: Change from 1990 (base year)



What is to be done?

The 15% solutions—Market/demand driven policies:

- Guestworker eligibility only at wages in top 15th wage percentiles
 - Industry/occupation
 - Regional adjustment
 - Ro Khanna and others re: promoting rural/middle America high-skill industry development
- Graduates of U.S. universities in the top 15 percent of the class
 - Demand will limit diploma mills and exclusionary programs
 - ➔ **Increase Diversity**
 - Increase “quality” throughout university tiers
 - Incentivize investment in domestic students, especially in underrepresented/underserved populations (ascriptive characteristics and income/class)
 - Incentivize collaboration – foreign students’ interest in success of domestic peers and forge long-term *global* linkages

Meeting the needs of industry— The 15% Solution

per Musk: 130 to 309/yr
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of “super talent” hires
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- Provides 150x of Musk’s demand— (he wants 130 to 309/year)
 - OR: if 0.1% of “Engineers” (Computer, EE) + high skill Computer occupations=3,085 [May 2023 est.]
 - @ 5% attrition + 5% growth = ~309 new hires/yr
 - Of all H-1B issuances = 130/yr are Musk’s “super talented”
- Provides 77,500 available H-1B capped slots
(of current population pool/approvals; <10% currently have pay in top 15th wage percentile)
- Market-driven diversity
- Private/public partnership investment in U.S. education and training
 - Increased use of training/apprenticeship for IT jobs?

