Immigration barriers will affect U.S. academia.

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The Nobel Prize is one measure of a country’s intellectual prowess. Whether it is in the sciences, literature or economics, to win one is always a point of pride, not only for the winner but also for their country of citizenship. Since the first Nobel Prize was awarded in 1901, 86 individuals from 76 countries have won it. Of these, 36 have been from the United States. More Nobel Prize winners have been American than any other nationality.

And of the 53 American awardees, 98 were born in other countries. Of the six Americans awarded Nobel Prizes last year in chemistry, physics and economics, all are immigrants. They are Americans by choice, but not by birth. Other notable winners – including Albert Einstein – became American citizens after winning their awards.

Besides Nobel winners, American colleges and universities count on thousands of immigrants to do the job of teaching and research. There is no question that foreign-born students have contributed in making the U.S. the intellectual leader of the world, which is why this country has always been generous in accepting immigrants who can contribute to maintaining and enhancing that leadership. They work to strengthen our economy and our national security. Colleges and universities in some states have also become increasingly dependent on international students to fill the shrinking numbers of high school graduates.

Many of these students stay in the U.S. and contribute to the nation’s intellectual and economic success. But now all that may change.

Dr. Aldeadomo Romero Jr.
Letters from Academia

On March 5th the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services announced on its website that starting April 7th the agency would temporarily suspend premium processing for all H-1B visa petitions until further notice. This is the type of visa that allows U.S. employers to temporarily employ foreign-born, highly skilled workers. This type of visa has been the most common way colleges, universities, research institutions and American corporations hire international talent.

Just to give you an idea of the effect that this suspension can have on U.S. higher education and industry, each year more than 85,000 high-skilled foreign workers obtain three-year permits to work for companies and universities in this country. In fact, higher education registration totals rank as the third largest sponsors of H-1B visas recipients, just behind technology firms.

On April 18, President Trump signed a “Buy American, Hire American” executive order, which sets broad policies directing federal agencies to propose reforms to the H-1B visa system and making it much more difficult to obtain. The reasons behind those moves were vaguely stated in a speech at a Wisconsin toolmaker facility in which the president said that the measures were designed to “reform the American immigration system to prevent the ‘shock of American prosperity’.”

This order could also have an impact on American colleges’ recruitment of students from abroad. Many international students choose to study in the U.S. because of the quality of education here. Many of them will stay in this country after graduation and gain work experience, which they see as almost as valuable as an American degree itself. Many of them will stay in this country and become American citizens.

What these new immigration policies mean is that international students will likely have a difficult time to stay in the U.S., where there is a great need for high-tech workers. By doing so, fewer international students will come to the U.S., severely impacting universities and colleges and universities (to which they usually pay full tuition) and bottlenecking the flow of talent to this country.

This potential problem, earlier this year the president signed a pair of executive orders to temporarily suspend the intake of H-1B visas to travelers – including students and scholars – who are from the six countries that are most vulnerable to terrorist attacks. These are the countries that are not a danger to the U.S.

In coming years, there will be a continued focus on the need for a more streamlined immigration system, say that the government should make it easier for the brightest foreign-born graduates to stay and work in the United States, particularly in high-demand fields such as medicine and engineering fields.

I myself was fortunate enough to graduate from a public university in a small town in the Midwest. I do not have to worry about legal status. I can legally stay, legally in this country, create a family, and pursue a career. I am glad that I have been able to contribute and to help this country, and that my country has always been open to foreign national who wants to come to study in the U.S., chances are that you will be less welcomed.

As a result, many U.S. institutions of higher education are already reporting a decrease of up to 40 percent in the number of applications by international students. Canada and Australia are seeing dramatic decreases in such applications and in the number of international students.

In fact, a recent global survey of prospective students showed that one in three potential applicants was less likely to want to study in the United States because of the political climate here. In a meeting that I had earlier this year with students from the United States who sends the most students to the U.S., many showed great concern about the possibility of future opportunities to come in the United States. For years, American colleges have advocated for an immigration system, saying that the government should make it easier for the brightest foreign-born graduates to stay and work in the United States, particularly in high-demand fields such as medicine and engineering fields.

Where’s the water?

A water emergency meeting was held Thursday during Laclede Elementary School’s Laclede Lollipop Festival. The festival has been ongoing for 33 years and counting. After featuring Weather – Infrared, sun, temperatures or rain was always a factor in determining the success of the Laclede Lollipop Festival.

L&C showcasing high school artists

Where’s the water?

The works of more than 45 high school artists are showcased in the Laclede and Clark Counties 2017 Regional High School Art Exhibition in the Lewis and Clark Community Pool at Wilson Park, Highland. This and More for making this show possible, said. “There is a great variety of education are already reporting a decrease of up to 40 percent in the number of applications by international students. Canada and Australia are seeing dramatic decreases in such applications and in the number of international students.

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We are extremely grateful to the teachers, parents and community members who accepted the challenge of hosting the event. Additional photo information about MCT bus routes and schedules is available at www.aromerojr.net.

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