AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES



# THE IMPORTANCE OF GLOBAL EDUCATION



**"It's important that college graduates, whatever their location, be not just globally competitive but also globally competent, understanding their roles as citizens and workers in an international context."**

*Reclaiming the American Dream: Community Colleges and the Nation's Future,* AACC 21st-Century Commission on the Future of Community Colleges

Our world and workplace are rapidly changing, becoming more diverse and globalized. For community college leaders and other decision makers, the importance of global education is an urgent need that is deeply rooted in economics—student employability, our ability to live and work successfully in diverse environments, and the prosperity of local communities. As the largest and most diverse sector of U.S. higher education, community colleges are essential and uniquely situated to ensure America's future economic prosperity.

## Prosperous Local Communities

U.S. communities, especially in rural areas, are increasingly competing for foreign investment, and globally competent and competitive workers make such communities more attractive to foreign subsidiaries. Community colleges, 60% of which are in rural areas, play a crucial role in helping local communities attract foreign investment. Such foreign investment (i.e., insourcing) has profoundly positive effects on both the local and national economy.

In 2012, the Organization for International Investment reported that[1]

- Foreign subsidiaries in the U.S. directly or indirectly accounted for 21 million U.S. jobs, or more than 12% of total U.S. employment.
- The presence of foreign subsidiaries in local communities boosted the pay rate of other workers across the board.
- Each worker at a foreign subsidiary supported three U.S. workers. In manufacturing, each subsidiary job supported five U.S. jobs.
- Foreign subsidiaries and their suppliers contributed $2 trillion to the U.S. economy, 14% of the U.S. GDP, and foreign subsidiary-related jobs provided more than $1 trillion in worker compensation.

SOURCE

1 Organization for International Investment. (2012, May). *Chain reaction: Global investment works for America.* Retrieved from *http://www.ofii.org/sites/default/files/docs/OFII_CHAINREACTION_REPORT.pdf*



## Valued Workers

Our local and national prosperity are inexorably linked to the global economy. Today's employers look for and highly value globally competent workers. Community colleges can have a direct and immediate impact on ensuring American prosperity by preparing a future workforce that can live and work successfully in a global economy.

In 2013, the British Council, Booz Allen Hamilton, and Ipsos Public Affairs surveyed 367 large employers in nine countries (the Unites States, the United Kingdom, Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Jordan, South Africa, and the United Arab Emirates) who said that they highly value employees who

- Work effectively with individuals and organizations from different cultural backgrounds.
- Understand different cultural contexts and viewpoints.
- Demonstrate respect for others.
- Show cultural sensitivity.

Employers also indicated a heavy reliance upon academic institutions to prepare students in these areas. Employees without those skills are regarded as possible risks that can result in loss of clients, damage to reputation, and conflict within teams.[2]

## Civil Society

A large and diverse cross-section of Americans attend community colleges each year to acquire knowledge and obtain a better life, including large numbers of immigrants. As new immigrants arrive from more diverse places around the world, the face of America is dramatically changing and community colleges play an important role to ensure a civil society which facilitates the free flow of forces necessary for economic development. Increasingly, immigrants are encountered in every facet of American life. Whether as a customer, employer, or employee, the need for intercultural and global competence has become increasingly important in American society.

**16+**
**YEARS OLD**

**22.9 million** U.S. immigrants are 16 years or older.

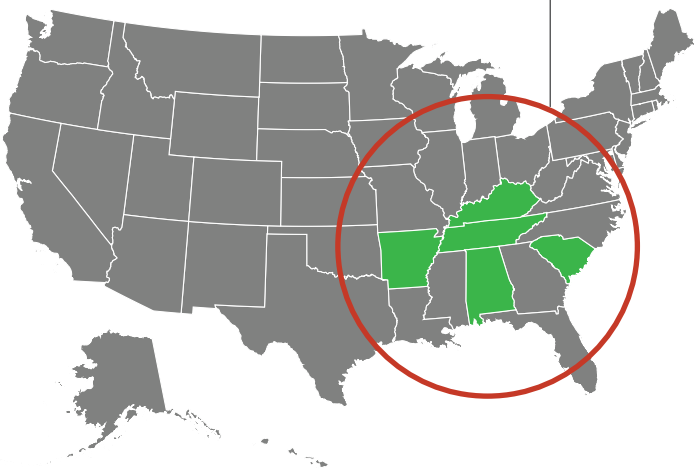


**30%** of the immigrants in the workforce are in management or professional jobs, **25%** are in service jobs, **17%** are in office and sales jobs, and **15%** are in production and transportation.



Rural areas experience the **LARGEST GROWTH** in immigrant populations.

States with the **HIGHEST GROWTH** in immigrants are Alabama, South Carolina, Tennessee, Arkansas, and Kentucky.[3]





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**SOURCES**

2 Booz Allen Hamilton, British Council, & Ipsos Public Affairs. (2013). *Culture at work: The value of intercultural skills in the workplace*. Retrieved from *https://www.britishcouncil.org/sites/default/files/culture-at-work-report-v2.pdf*

3 Batalova, J. & Zong, J. (2015, February 26). Frequently requested statistics on immigrants and immigration in the United States. *The Online Journal of Migration Policy Institute*. Retrieved from *http://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/frequently-requested-statistics-immigrants-and-immigration-united-states*