



SMALL BUSINESS CONNECTION



By [Jim Hopkins](#)

Study: Immigrant founders super-educated

The new study found that 96% of immigrant founders of technology and engineering companies hold bachelor's degrees, and 74% have graduate or postgraduate degrees, according to the research team's sponsor, the [Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation](#).

Missing from [the study's summary](#), unfortunately, is data for non-immigrant entrepreneurs. I suspect they also have very high college and grad-school graduation rates. Would they be as high as 96%? We'll see if the figures become available. (Hardly an apples-to-apples comparison, but: For the U.S. population overall, just 24.4% of those 25 years and older hold a bachelor's degree or better, [these Census data show](#). Not very encouraging, eh?)

Today's new study follows earlier work at Duke University and the University of California at Berkeley that found companies launched by immigrants from 1995 to 2005 employ 450,000 workers and reported combined annual revenue of \$52 billion in 2005. The majority of those immigrants came from India, the United Kingdom, China, Taiwan, Japan and Germany.

It's tempting to think studies like these might influence the [current debate over U.S. immigration policy](#) and the role foreigners play in our economy. But much of that debate is focused on less well-educated immigrants coming to the U.S. illegally from Mexico and other parts of Central America.