Statistics on International Students

- 819,644 international students in U.S.
- Estimated contribution to U.S. economy is $24 billion
- 27,000 international students in Michigan
- Estimated contribution to Michigan economy is $822.9 million
- 7,161 international students at MSU (9th largest program in U.S.)
- Estimated contribution to economy of Greater Lansing is $250 million
- Largest sending countries: China, South Korea, India
What is an International Student?

- In U.S. temporarily for the purpose of study
- When they apply for a student visa at a Consul abroad, they must:
  - Demonstrate nonimmigrant intent, show strong ties to their country and provide an address abroad to which they will return
  - Show evidence of sufficient financial support to meet all their educational and living expenses
  - Students in some disciplines and from certain countries will experience special security clearances
Perceptions of International Students

- Best and brightest academic talent
- Bridges to international understanding; friendship with an international student can be transformational. We can have international experiences in Michigan and not necessarily go abroad to gain a global perspective
- Possible business networking and helps us make friends in the world
  - Many come from influential families
  - Are we ready for them to invest here?
- Economic exports
- Risks to national security and they might do us harm
Lansing as a Globally Friendly Community

- Community Volunteers for International Programs (CVIP)
- East Lansing Welcomes the World in partnership with MSU
- Stakeholders group and preparing for cross cultural contact
- Global Lansing

What are the qualities of an internationally friendly community?
- Cultural and social connections
- ESL support
- Transportation with airport, taxis, train and bus service
- Health issues
Employment on a Student Visa

- Permitted to work on campus up to 20 hours per week and full time during vacations
- Permitted to work off campus with authorization to gain experience in their fields of study. This is known as Curricular Practical Training (CPT)
- Following graduation, they can undertake 12 months of employment to gain experience in their fields of study. This is known as Optional Practical Training (OPT)
  - Graduates in STEM disciplines can also request an additional 17 months OPT extension for a total of 29 months of OPT
- Law allows them to own a business, but they cannot work for it
Special Topics

- Terrorism and international students
  - Universities and SEVIS reporting
  - There will always be risks; no system can guarantee security
- Government audits and increased scrutiny
- Talent in the U.S.: 30% of U.S. Nobel Laureates are foreign born
- When do we want them to stay and when do we want them to go home?
- Supporting mobility around the world; U.S. immigration law is hindering our ability to retain talented people
Global Talent Retention Initiative (GTRI)

- [http://www.migtri.org/](http://www.migtri.org/)

- Part of Governor Snyder’s vision for economic development in Michigan is to retain talented people

- Global Michigan initiative wants to make Michigan more immigrant friendly and this includes international students
  - More innovation comes from STEM talent
  - About 40% of international students pursue STEM majors as contrasted with about 13% of American students
  - Job creators are not taking jobs away from qualified U.S. workers

- How can we keep talented international students when U.S. law is stuck in the past?
More GTRI

- Goal is to educate employers about ways they can legally employ international students
- Goal is to help connect international students and Michigan employers
- Goal is to demystify U.S. immigration regulations for international students
- Goal is to brand Michigan as immigrant friendly to help us attract talent to our universities