

**Economic Development Committee Memorandum**

Board of Regents, State of Iowa

**Subject:** Higher Education and the Iowa Economy: A Presentation by Staff from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems

**Prepared by:** Anthony Girardi *ASN*

**Date Submitted:** July 21, 2004

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**Recommended Action:**

Receive the report.

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**Executive Summary:**

In response to an invitation from Dr. Barak, staff from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) provided a presentation to the Iowa Coordinating Council for Post-High School Education in May, 2004. The presentation, attached, covers some factors in the relationship between education and economic prosperity in Iowa. It is organized with respect to four major categories. These are: 1) workforce; 2) college participation and completion; 3) net gain/loss of Iowa residents; and 4) the economy. In most cases, the slides allow for comparisons between Iowa and the other states. The data in the slides is drawn from a unique combination of data sources, including the U.S. Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis, Postsecondary Education Opportunity, and NCES-IPEDS. Most of the slides present 2000 data.

The presentation indicates that Iowa outperforms most other states on many measures related to educational performance. For example, Iowa's workforce is relatively well-educated; the state compares favorably in terms of postsecondary enrollment and graduation statistics; and the state's postsecondary institutions are addressing demand for educated workers in key fields.

The presentation also suggests that Iowa nevertheless faces many challenges in assuring that education leads to well-paying jobs for Iowans and a strong state economy. For example, the state's workforce is relatively low-paid; over a recent five-year period Iowa lost well over three times as many educated residents aged 22-29 than it gained; and, during the period covered in the presentation, the state performed well below the top tier in attracting external research dollars.

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**Analysis:**

Below is a summary of the four categories of the presentation.

Iowa's workforce is relatively well-educated and relatively low-paid.

### Workforce

The slides having to do with the Iowa workforce present a fairly mixed picture. On most indicators related to the educational attainment of the Iowa workforce—for example, the percentage of 18-24 year-olds with at least a high school diploma—Iowa fares well by comparison to other states. On indicators having to do with the earnings and income of the workforce, however, Iowa tends to trail the U.S. average. Two factors contribute to this state of affairs for earnings and income: earnings of Iowa workers tend to be lower than those of workers in other states in the same job categories; and, Iowa workers are fairly disproportionately employed in relatively low-income job categories.

Iowa performs well on many enrollment and graduation indicators

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### College Participation and Completion

The graphs pertaining to college participation and completion concern such matters as enrollment, graduation, and patterns in the awarding of degrees.

In comparison to the other states, Iowa does well with respect to enrollment in postsecondary education. Iowa ranks particularly well with respect to the college-going rate of freshmen directly out of high school. Iowa is also a net importer from other states of first-time freshman college students, and indeed, ranks high in attracting freshmen to attend college in the state. Looked at in a slightly different way, Iowa residents tend to find it attractive to attend college in the state. In 2000, Iowa ranked sixth among the states in the percentage of bachelor's degree-seeking students graduating within six years.

Iowa's schools and postsecondary institutions form a relatively efficient educational pipeline

Graduation rates are a component of the state's performance in moving students through the educational pipeline; i.e., from the beginning of high school through college graduation. The percentage of 9<sup>th</sup> graders in Iowa high schools who go on to complete a postsecondary degree within 150% of the conventional length of time for completing the degree (i.e., six years for completing the bachelor's degree) equals that of the best performing state.

Iowa postsecondary institutions attend to the demand for educated workers

Several slides in the presentation concern the awarding of degrees in fields associated with relatively high-paying or high-demand occupations. These include the fields of engineering, engineering technology, computer science, registered nursing, health technology, and education. With respect to the number of bachelor's degrees per 1,000 occupations in a field, Iowa performs well above the U.S. average in all fields and, in many instances, in the top quartile of states.

Many of Iowa's educated young people leave the state

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### Net Gain/Loss of Iowa Residents

During the period 1995-2000, Iowa experienced a net loss of residents aged 22-64. During this period, the state was a net gainer of residents whose highest level of educational attainment was a high school diploma or less. But these gains were far offset by the out-migration of Iowa residents whose educational attainment included an associate's, bachelor's, graduate, or professional degree. For example, among 22-29 year-olds, Iowa was a net gainer of some 5,000 residents whose highest level of educational attainment was less than a high school diploma. However, Iowa lost roughly 19,000 residents in the same age group, or well over three times as many, whose educational attainment included some form of postsecondary degree.

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The Iowa economy partly explains the state's net loss of educated residents

Economy

The economy of Iowa, on the average, rewards postsecondary degree earners less than do the economies of nearly all other states. The slides at the bottom of page 9 in the attachment indicate that, across the country, median earnings for people whose highest level of educational attainment is the high school diploma are significantly lower than median earnings for people with postsecondary degrees. But in Iowa the difference in median earnings between postsecondary degree earners and non-degree earners is less than the difference for residents in all but three other states.

The state's ability to do advanced research is linked with a strong economy

The presentation data having to do with research and development expenditures speaks to the state's ability to generate advanced research, which is associated with strong economies and high-paying jobs. Iowa performs fairly well on a per-capita basis in research and development expenditures generally. However, and more importantly, Iowa does far less well in attracting federal research and development dollars specifically, i.e., in attracting dollars from external sources. According to the NCHEMS website, HigherEdInfo.org, "One step toward achieving this goal [of attracting external R&D dollars] is to increase the ability of institutions to attract and retain the best and brightest research faculty."

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Follow-up meeting in spring, 2005

Staff from NCHEMS have been invited by the ICCPHSE leadership to join a discussion of this and other data at the spring, 2005 ICCPHSE meeting.

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# Piecing It All Together

Using Data from [www.higheredinfo.org](http://www.higheredinfo.org)

Iowa

Patrick J. Kelly

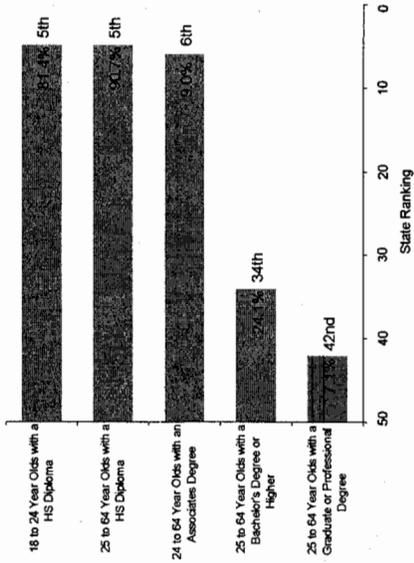
May 5, 2004



National Center for Higher Education Management Systems  
 P.O. Box 9752 Boulder, Colorado 80501-9752 (303) 497-0301

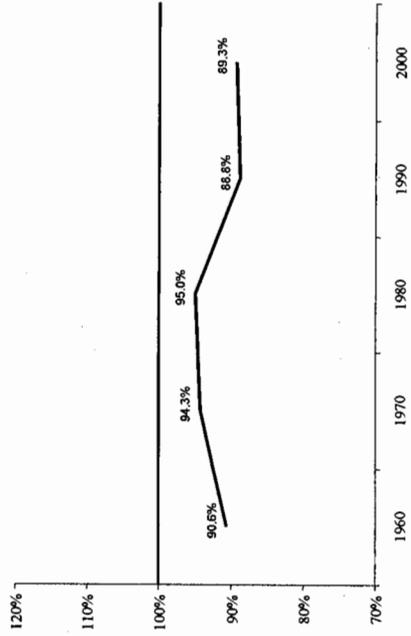
# The Workforce

## Educational Attainment—Iowa Attainment and U.S. Rank, 2000



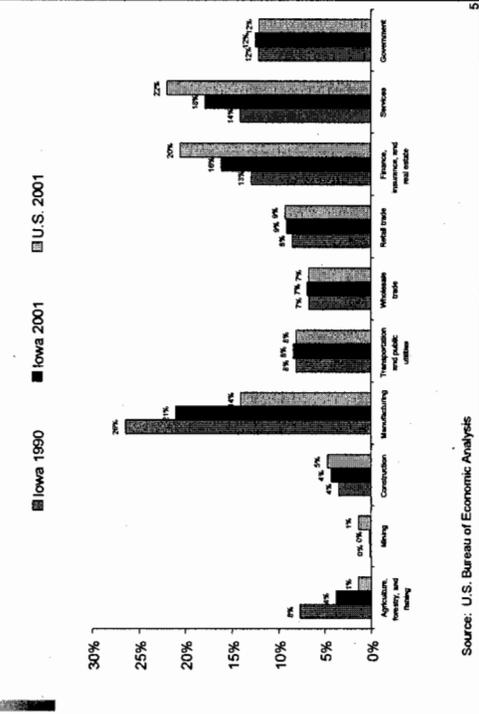
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

## Iowa Per Capita Personal Income as a Percentage of U.S. Average, 1960-2000



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

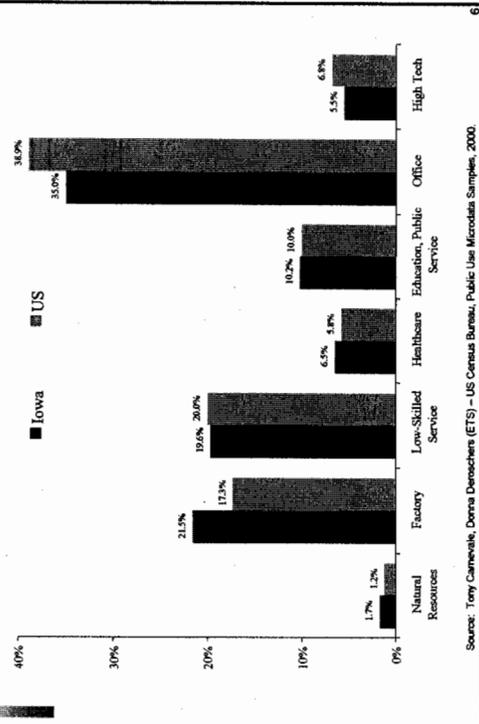
### Share of Gross State Product by Sector



Source: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis

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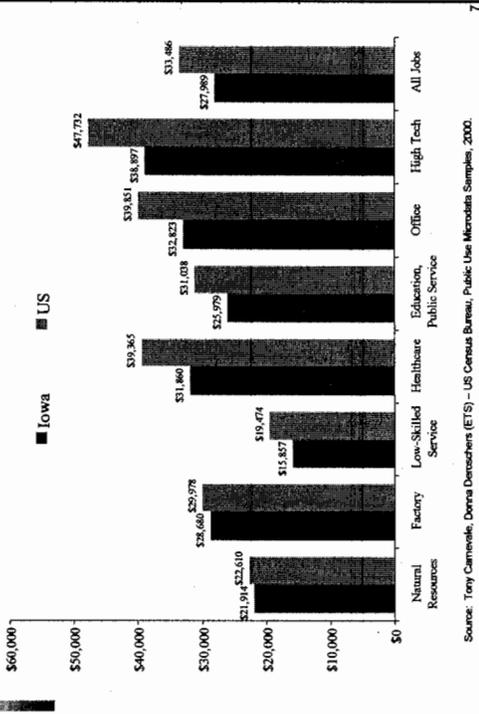
### Employment by Job Type, 1998-2001 (Percent)



Source: Tony Carnevale, Donna Desrosiers (ETS) - US Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Samples, 2000

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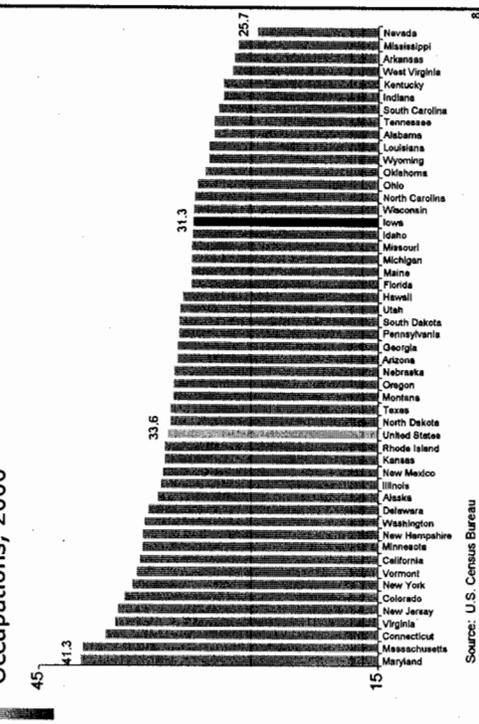
### Earnings by Job Type, 1998-2001



Source: Tony Carnevale, Donna Desrosiers (ETS) - US Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Samples, 2000

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### Percent Employment in Professional and Management Occupations, 2000



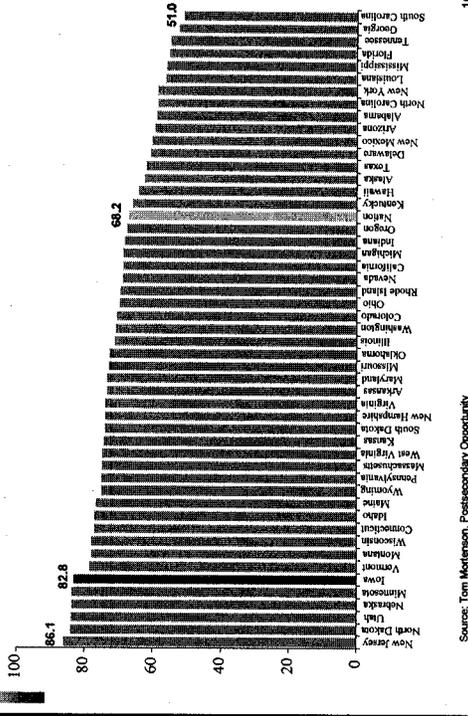
Source: U.S. Census Bureau

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# College Participation and Completion

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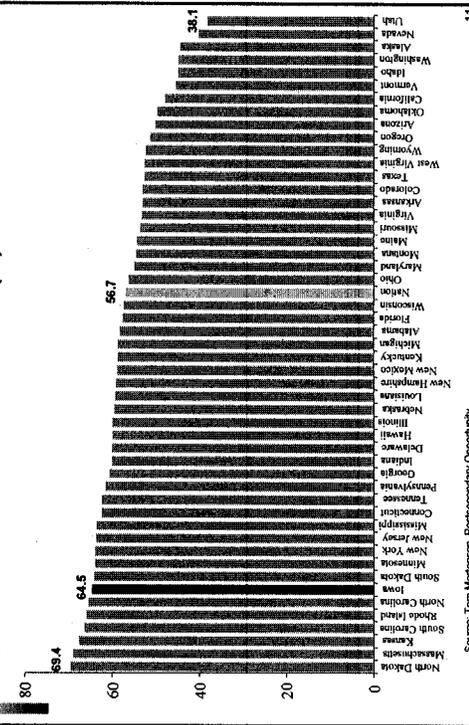
Public High School Graduation - 9th Graders Graduating Four Years Later (%) - 2000



Source: Tom Mortenson, Postsecondary Opportunity

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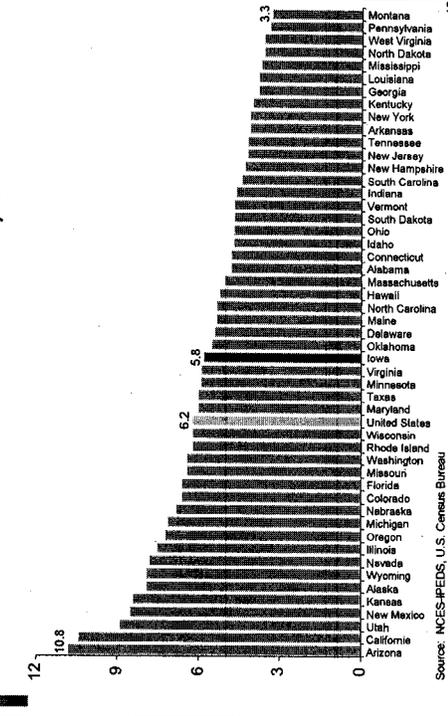
College Going Rates - First-Time Freshmen Directly Out of HS as a Percent of Recent HS Graduates (%) - 2000



Source: Tom Mortenson, Postsecondary Opportunity

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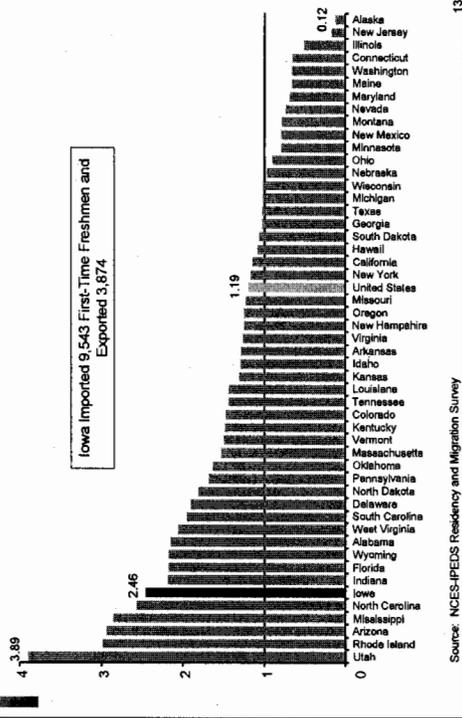
Part-Time Undergraduate Enrollment as a Percent of 25- to 44-Year-Olds, 2000



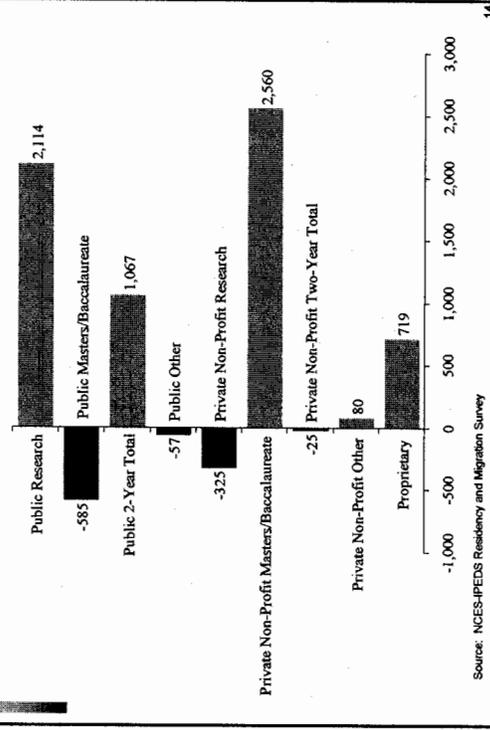
Source: NCES-IPEDS, U.S. Census Bureau

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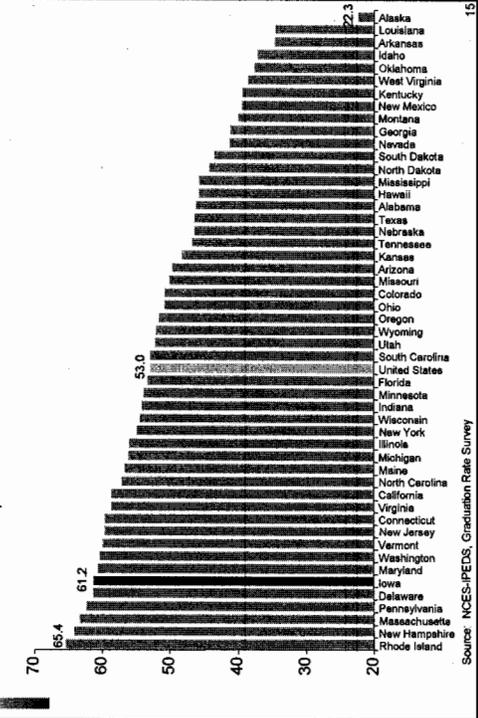
### Import/Export Ratio of First-Time Freshmen, Fall 2002 (> 1 = Importer, < 1 = Exporter)



### Net Imports by Type of Institution, Fall 2002



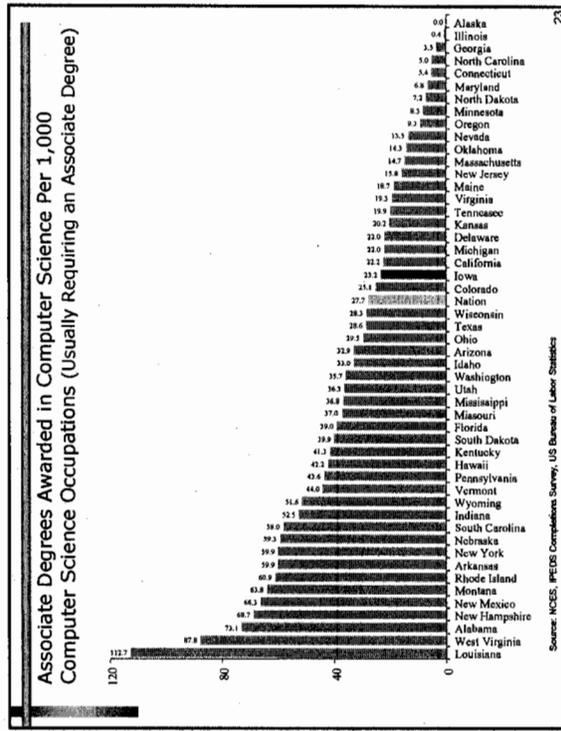
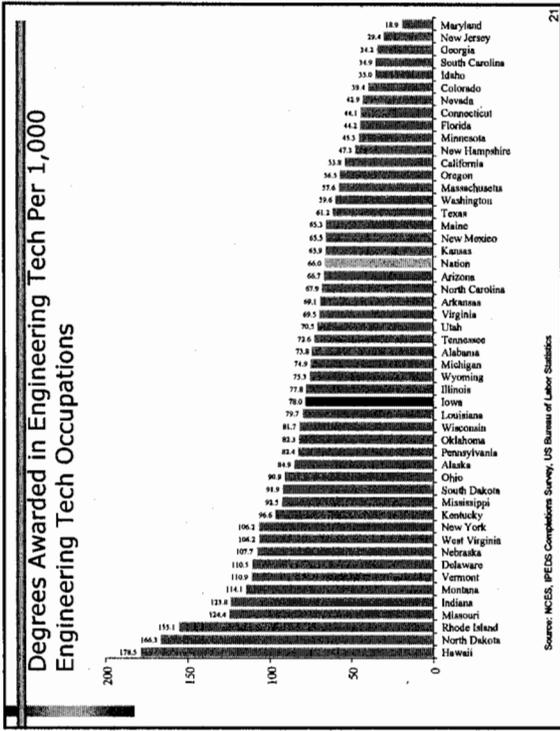
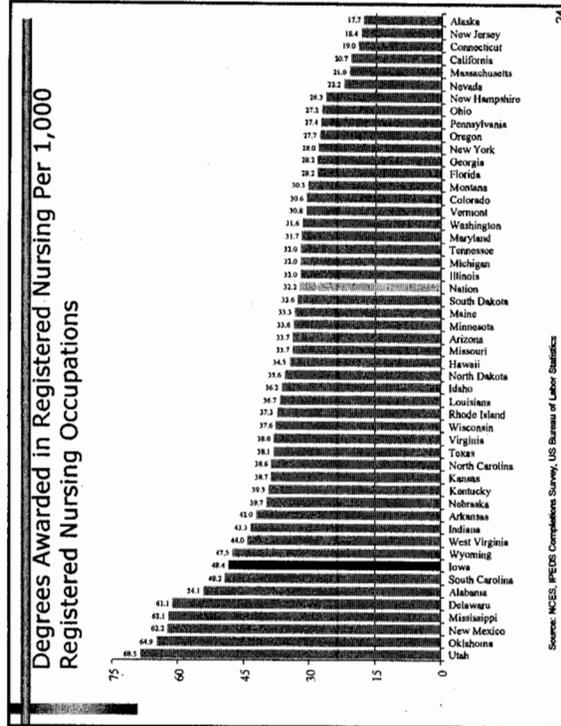
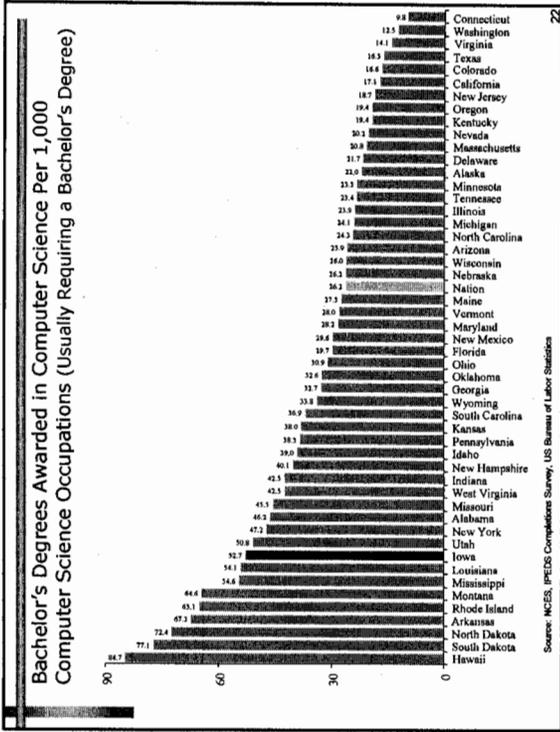
### Graduation Rates—Percent of Bachelor's Students Graduating Within Six Years, 2000

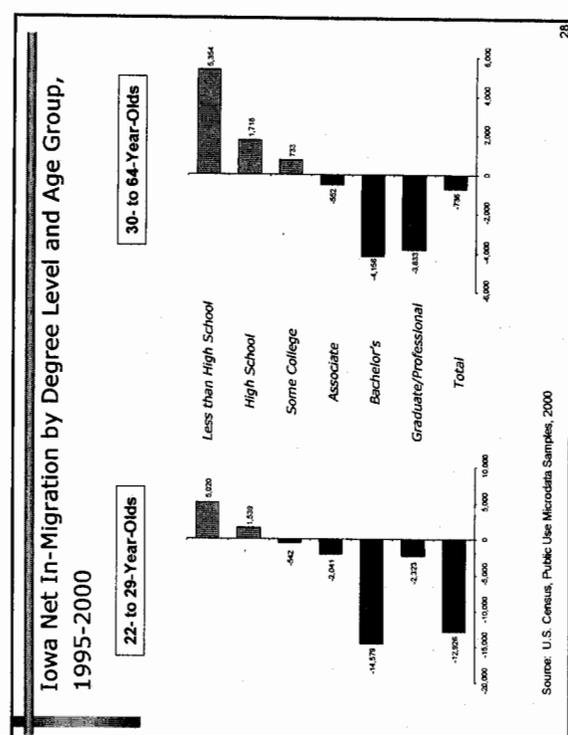
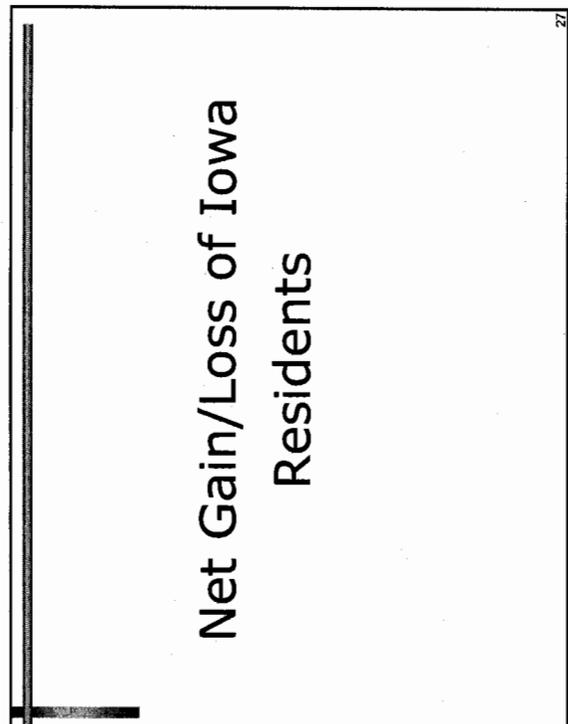
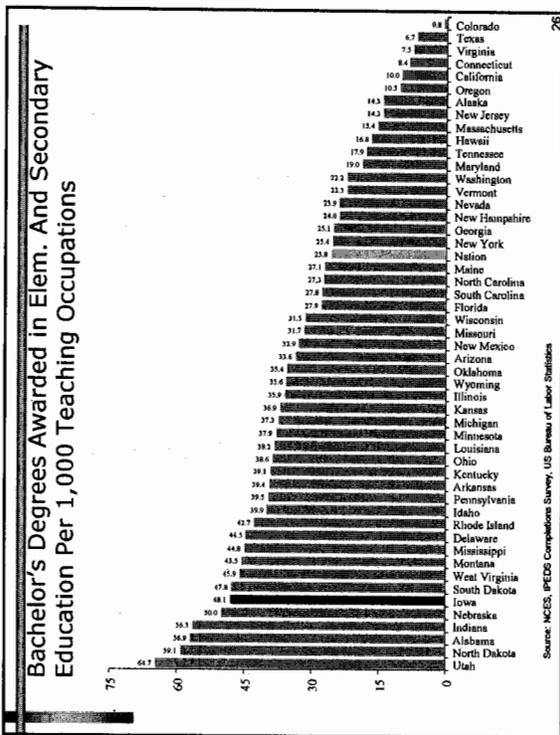
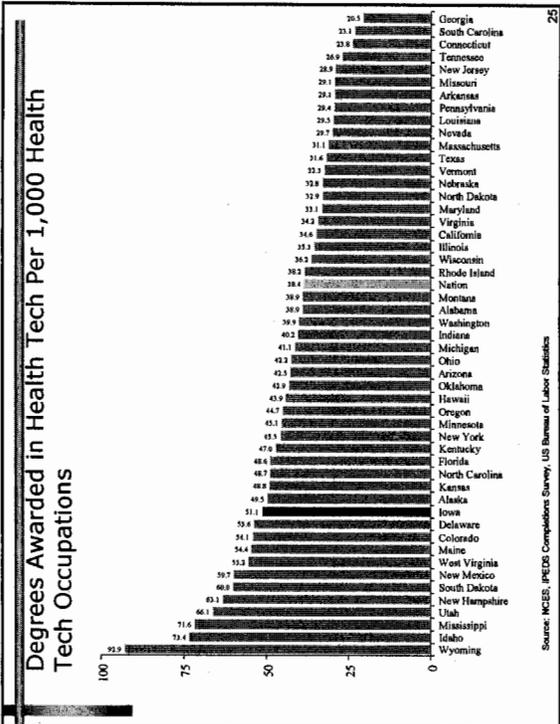


### Bachelor's Degrees Awarded as a Percent of All Undergraduates (%) - 2002

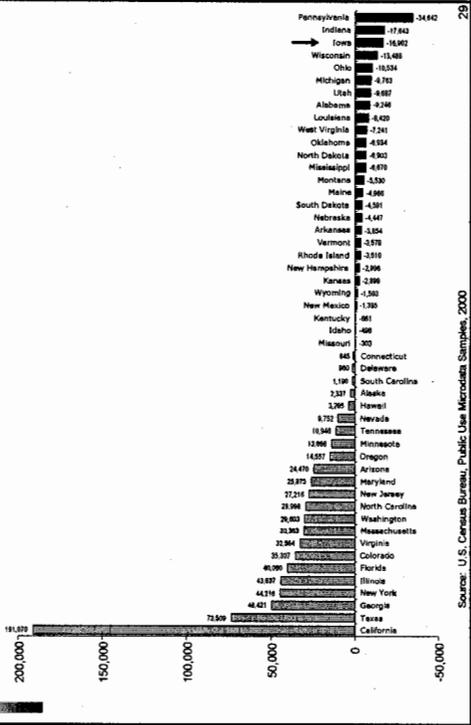




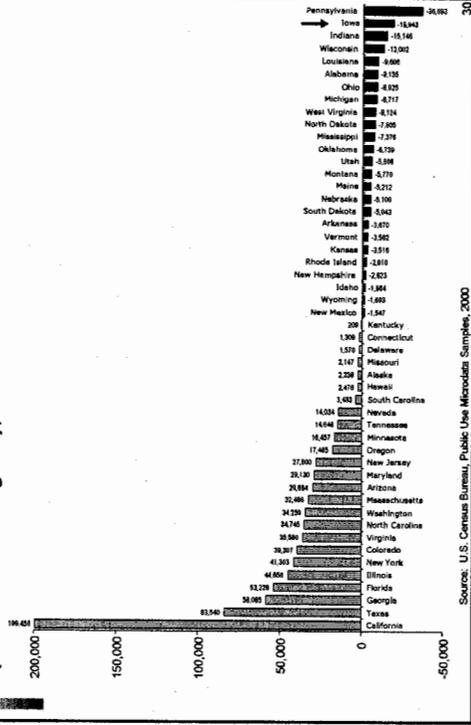




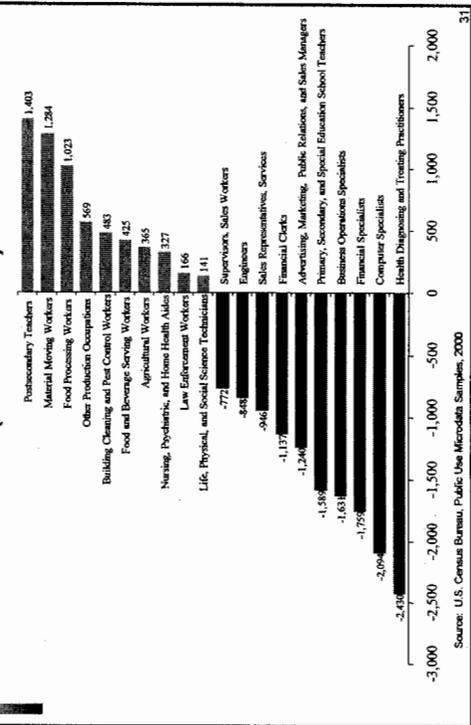
### Net Migration of Residents 22-29 with Bachelor's Degree or Higher, 1995-2000



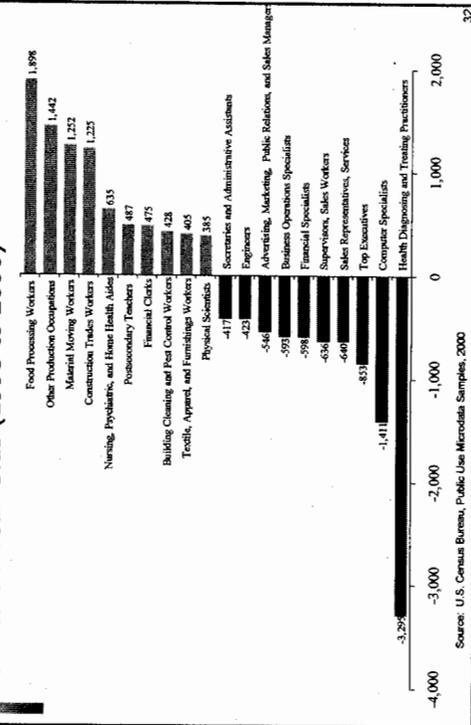
### Net Migration of Residents 22-29 with College Degree (Associate or Higher), 1995-2000



### Occupations with High Net Imports and Exports—All 22- to 29-Year-Olds (1995 to 2000)



### Occupations with High Net Imports and Exports—All 30- to 64-Year-Olds (1995 to 2000)



### States to Which Iowa Loses Most of Its College-Educated Residents (Net Loss from 1995 to 2000)

22- to 29-Year-Olds	30- to 64-Year-Olds
Illinois	-1766
Minnesota	-1684
Wisconsin	-1311
Colorado	-980
California	-866
Kansas	-849
Missouri	-822
Wisconsin	-721
Texas	-684
Arizona	-617
Florida	-560
Washington	-512
North Carolina	-481
Georgia	-475
Virginia	-460
New York	-441
Illinois	-374

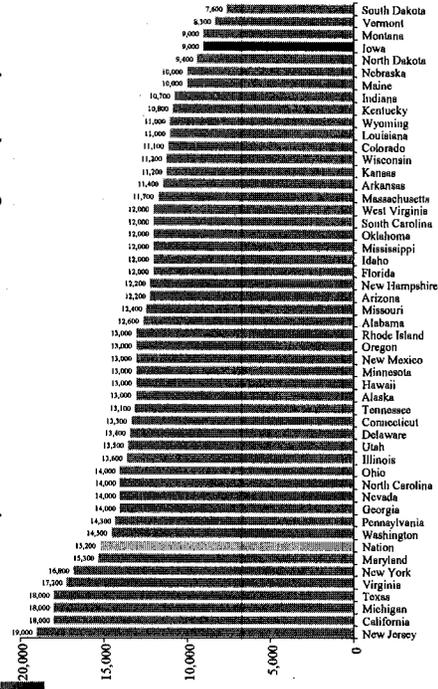
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Samples, 2000

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## The Economy

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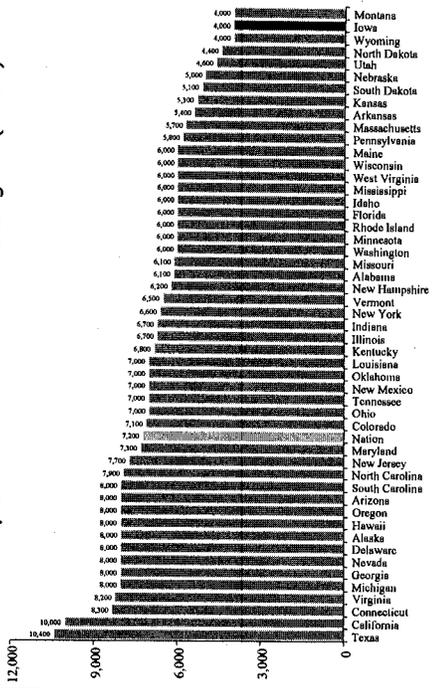
### Difference in Median Earnings Between a High School Diploma and a Bachelor's Degree (2000)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Samples, 2000

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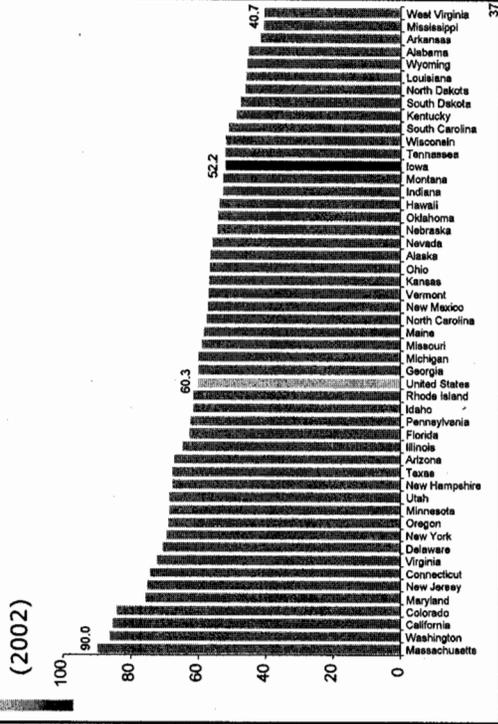
### Difference in Median Earnings Between a High School Diploma and an Associates Degree (2000)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Public Use Microdata Samples, 2000

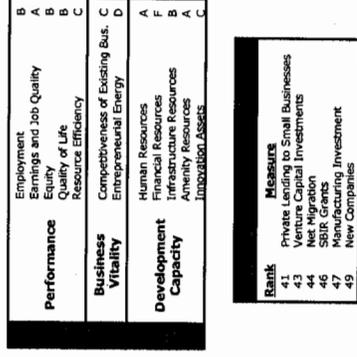
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### Progressive Policy Institute—"State New Economy Index" (2002)



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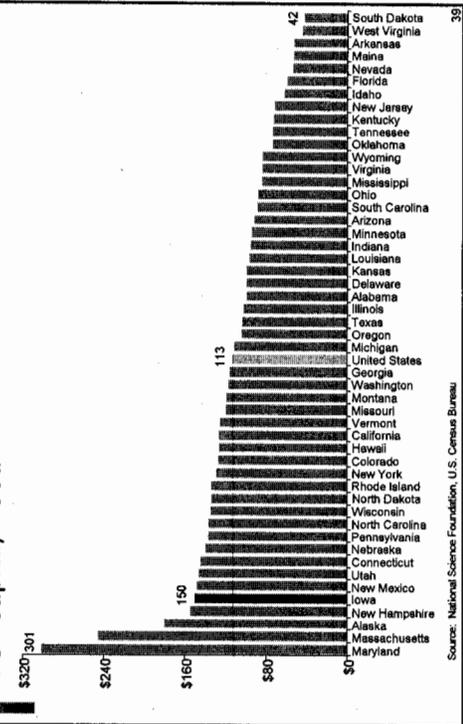
### Development Report Card for the States, 2003—Iowa



Source: Corporation for Enterprise Development

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### Total Research and Development Expenditures Per Capita, 2001



Source: National Science Foundation, U.S. Census Bureau

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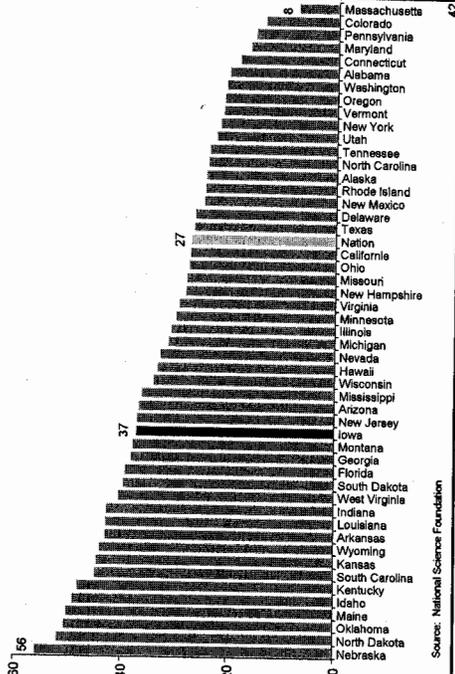
### Federal Research and Development Expenditures Per Capita, 2001



Source: National Science Foundation, U.S. Census Bureau

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### State and Local R&D Expenditures as a Percent of Total R&D, 2001



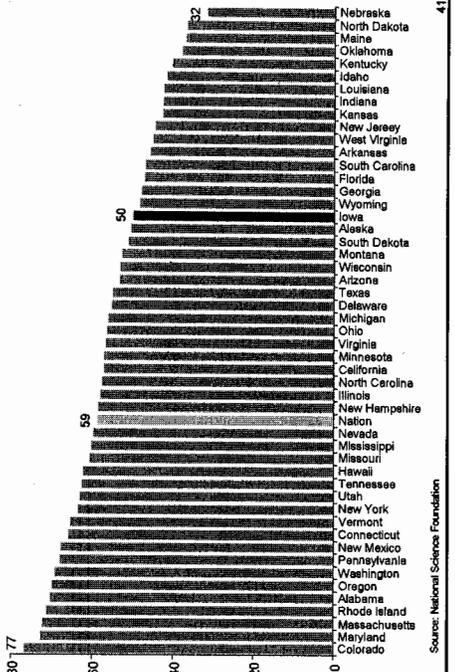
Source: National Science Foundation

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These data are available at:  
<http://www.higheredinfo.org>

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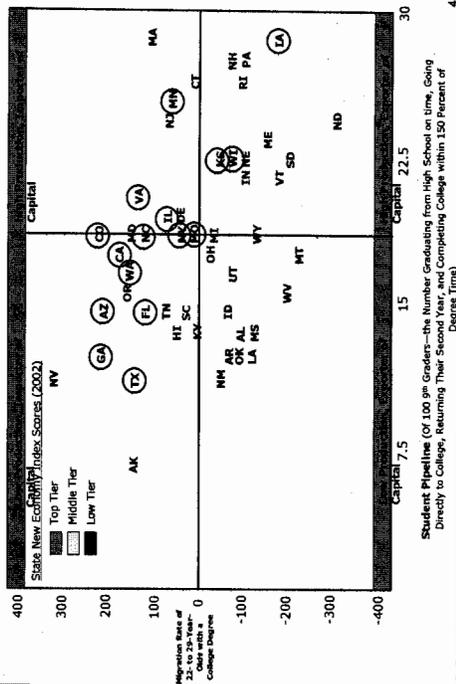
### Federal R&D Expenditures as a Percent of Total R&D, 2001



Source: National Science Foundation

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### States' Ability to Produce Graduates vs. Ability to Keep and Attract Graduates



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