Entrepreneurial communities grow up around smart people. Whenever someone in state or local government asks me what they can do to accelerate entrepreneurship, I always tell them to put as much money and energy as they can into education. If you build a broad base of smart, inquisitive, curious people that are long term members of your community (e.g. they don't move somewhere else), you'll be delighted with the results over a long period of time (think 20+ years).

Richard Florida, one of the most thoughtful writers and thinkers about entrepreneurial communities, recently identified Boulder as the "brainiest city in the US." Richard Florida's first book, *The Rise of the Creative Class*, is a must read for anyone that cares about entrepreneurship and entrepreneurial communities. It forms the basis for his body of work around the notion of a creative class and has influenced plenty of my thinking in this area.

To get a feel for the data and description that names Boulder as the Brainiest City in the US, there's a quick slide show (that I can't embed) that has the following data on it.

- Computer Math Degree Recipients: 7.84 percent
- Science Degree Recipients: 3.15 percent
- Graduate and Professional Degree Recipients: 24.22 percent

This reflects nicely on my post about *Entrepreneurial Density* from a week ago. 25% of the population in Boulder has a graduate or professional degree. Don't forget that about 20% of the population of Boulder are undergraduate students. That's a remarkable number.
I'm heading to Chicago early tomorrow morning to participate in a two day event around this year's Excelerate program. Monday is Angel Excelerator 2010 and Tuesday is the Excelerate Demo / Investor Day. David Cohen and I are doing a talk together and we get to watch our friend Dave McClure juggle 500 hats. There are plenty of smart people in Chicago--I look forward to spending a couple of days hanging out with some of them.

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