



2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 • www.vef.gov • Phone 703-351-5053 • Fax 703-351-1423

Lynne A. McNamara, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Contact:**

In the U.S. – Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director: 1-703-351-5053  
In Vietnam – Dr. Phuong Nguyen, Country Director: 84-4-3936-3670

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## **VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES BOARD MEMBERS APPOINTED BY PRESIDENT OBAMA**

Washington, D.C., December 05, 2013. The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is proud to announce the appointment by President Barack Obama of two new Presidential appointees to the VEF Board of Directors, Dr. Quyen Chu and Dr. Edmund J. Malesky, as well as the reappointment of one Presidential appointee to the VEF Board of Directors, Ms. Anhlan P. Nguyen.

Dr. Quyen D. Chu is Chief of Surgical Oncology at Louisiana State University Health Science Center in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is also Director of the Peritoneal Surface Malignancies Program and Charles Knight, Sr., Endowed Professor of Surgery at Louisiana State University. Dr. Chu received VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar grants in 2009 and 2010. He served as host and coordinator of the VEF 2012 Annual Conference, held in Shreveport, Louisiana. In 2013, he received the Vietnamese-American Youth Excellence Recognition Award from the Vietnamese Culture & Science Association. He was named among “Top Doctors” by *U.S. News & World Report* and Castle Connolly Medical Ltd., and in 2009 and 2010, he was named “Most Influential Doctor” by *USA Today*. Dr. Chu received a B.A. from Dartmouth College, an M.B.A. from Centenary College, and an M.D. from Brown University’s School of Medicine.

Dr. Edmund Malesky is an Associate Professor of Political Economy at Duke University, who specializes on the political economy of Vietnam. He is currently on sabbatical as a Visiting Associate Professor in the National University of Singapore Business School. In 2012, Dr. Malesky received a medal from the Vietnam Chamber of Commerce and Industry (VCCI) for his role in promoting economic development as the lead researcher for the US-AID’s Vietnam Provincial Competitiveness Index. He is a noted specialist in economic development, authoritarian institutions, and comparative political economy in Southeast Asia. He has published in leading political science and economic journals, including the *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Politics*, and *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. Dr. Malesky has been awarded the Harvard Academy Fellowship, the Gabriel Almond Award for best dissertation, the International Political Economy Society Best Paper Award, and the Rockefeller Bellagio Residency Fellowship.

Ms. Anhlan P. Nguyen is an IT Portfolio Manager at the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, a position she has held since 2002. She was first appointed to the Board of Directors of the Vietnam Education Foundation in 2012. From 1995 to 2002, she was an IT principal consultant and project manager at Metro Information Services/Keane, Inc. in Houston, Texas. Ms. Nguyen has been Chair of the Board of Directors of the Vietnamese Culture and Science Association since 2005, and in 1990, she founded the Vietnamese Youth Center of Toronto. She received the Women's Leadership Empowerment Award from the Texas Women Empowerment Foundation in 2011. Ms. Nguyen received a B.S. and an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Toronto.

Dr. Lynne A. McNamara, VEF Executive Director, praised the work of the Board. "The VEF Board of Directors provides valuable leadership and direction for all of our activities and programs. The Board members have varied experience and insights that lend depth to considerations of every aspect of operations and finances. I sincerely respect their efforts and their commitment to the mission and goals of VEF." VEF is governed by a thirteen-member Board of Directors, which consists of two U.S. Senators, two U.S. Representatives, three U.S. cabinet members, and six members from the U.S. citizenry appointed by the President of the United States. The Board appoints an American Executive Director to oversee VEF operations, conducted through two highly coordinated offices: the U.S. Headquarters in the Washington, D.C., area and the Vietnam Field Office in Hanoi.

VEF is a special initiative enacted by the U.S. Congress to bring the United States and Vietnam closer through educational exchanges related to science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and technology. The year of 2013 marked the tenth anniversary of operations for VEF. As its flagship activity, the VEF Fellowship Program has placed 467 Fellows at 92 top-tier U.S. graduate research institutions as of November 2013, mostly for doctoral degrees. Additionally, the Visiting Scholar Program funds Vietnamese doctorate recipients to pursue postdoctoral programs at U.S. universities for up to 12 months, and the U.S. Faculty Scholar Program provides support for American professors to teach at Vietnamese universities for one or two terms via videoconferencing or on site in Vietnam. VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars are required to return to Vietnam after completing their academic programs in the United States.

For additional information on VEF, please visit the VEF website at: [www.vef.gov](http://www.vef.gov).