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Lynne A. McNamara, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

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### **VEF FOLLOW-UP RESEARCH PROJECT AND**

### **INTERVIEWS FOR 2014 VEF FELLOWSHIPS AND VISITING SCHOLAR GRANTS**

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*Hanoi, July 19, 2013* – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce two events that will take place in late July and early August: (1) the VEF Follow-up Research Project: *Observations on the Current Status of Higher Education in Agricultural Sciences, Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, Environmental Sciences, Physics, and Transport and Communications at Select Universities in Vietnam*; and (2) the Interview/Oral Exam for the 2014 VEF Fellowship and Visiting Scholar Programs.

The purpose of the Follow-up Research Project is two-fold: (a) to review the strengths and challenges in undergraduate and graduate education in Vietnam in the fields of agricultural sciences, civil engineering, computer science, electrical engineering, environmental sciences, physics, and transport and communications as compared with the outcomes of the previous two reports (*Observations on Undergraduate Education in Computer Science, Electrical Engineering, and Physics at Select Universities in Vietnam*, published in August 2006; and *Observations on the Current Status of Education in the Agricultural Sciences in Vietnam*, published in January 2007); and (b) to develop recommendations for innovation and improvement that will enhance the quality of education in these fields in Vietnam to make them more competitive at the regional and international levels. VEF provides organizational and logistical support; funding for eight U.S. professors, who are volunteering their time to participate in the research project; and the final report.

For the VEF Interview Mission, a delegation of ten U.S. scientists and professors will come to Vietnam from July 30 to August 7, 2013, to interview candidates for the VEF Fellowships and the VEF Visiting Scholar grants for the 2014 cohort. This cohort of Fellows will begin graduate studies in the United States in the fall of 2014 in the fields supported by VEF, namely, the sciences (natural, physical, and environmental), engineering, mathematics, medicine (typically public health), and technology (including information technology). The successful Vietnamese Visiting Scholars will be participating in postdoctoral training at U.S. universities during academic year 2014-2015.

During the selection process, the U.S. scientists and professors will conduct oral exams/interviews for 111 VEF Fellowship and Visiting Scholar finalists in order to select the most talented individuals with the greatest potential and promise for graduate study or postdoc training in the United States. All VEF Fellowship applicants were required to have taken the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test in order to be considered for the Fellowship competition and to have demonstrated competency in English, generally through the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS). While in Vietnam, the U.S. delegation will also conduct scientific lectures and meetings at universities, research institutes, and EducationUSA Centers.

Dr. Lynne McNamara, VEF Executive Director, commented, "The Vietnam Education Foundation is delighted that the Follow-up Research Project will continue the study on how new models and approaches to undergraduate education and graduate education can contribute to increased effectiveness in teaching and learning in the sciences, engineering, and technology in Vietnam. VEF is also proud to be a part of the development of the sciences, engineering, mathematics, medicine, and technology for Vietnam. The highly recognized VEF Fellowship Program enables the best minds of Vietnam to pursue their dreams of getting a graduate degree in these fields in one of the outstanding research universities in the United States. VEF expects to send up to 40 new Fellows to begin graduate programs and 3 new Visiting Scholars to do postdoctoral training in the United States in the fall of 2014."

An initiative of the U.S. Congress, the Vietnam Education Foundation, which is a U.S. Federal Government agency, began operations in 2003, and the year 2013 marks its 10th anniversary. As its flagship activity, the VEF Fellowship Program has placed **467** Fellows at **92** top U.S. graduate institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees. The VEF Visiting Scholar Program provides opportunities for Vietnamese to pursue postdoctoral programs at U.S. universities from 5 to 12 months. In addition, the U.S. Faculty Scholar Program allows for U.S. professors to teach at Vietnamese universities for one or two terms either on site in Vietnam or via real-time interactive videoconferencing. VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars are required to return to Vietnam upon completion of their academic programs in the United States. As of July 2013, VEF has a network of 228 Alumni: 176 Fellows, 31 Visiting Scholars, and 21 U.S. Faculty Scholars.

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

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