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## **PRESS INFORMATION**

### **INTERVIEWS FOR 2013 VEF FELLOWSHIPS, VISITING SCHOLAR GRANTS AND FOURTH VEF ALUMNI CONFERENCE**

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*Hanoi, July 30, 2012* – The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) announces the visit to Vietnam by a delegation of ten U.S. scientists and professors from July 30 to August 8, 2012, to interview candidates for the VEF Fellowships and Visiting Scholar grants for the 2013 cohort. This cohort of Fellows will begin graduate studies in the United States in the fall of 2013 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 in academic year 2013-2014. Furthermore, on this occasion, VEF is pleased to announce that the 4<sup>th</sup> VEF Alumni Conference, whose theme is *VEF Alumni: Successes and Challenges*, will be held from August 10-12, 2012, in Da Nang.

During the selection process, the U.S. scientists and professors will conduct oral exams/interviews for eighty-four (84) VEF Fellowship and Visiting Scholar grant 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). While in Vietnam, the U.S. delegation will also conduct **20** scientific lectures and meetings at **14** universities, research institutes, and EducationUSA Centers in Hanoi, Thai Nguyen, and Ho Chi Minh City.

The 4<sup>th</sup> VEF Alumni Conference allows VEF Alumni to meet and develop strategies on how to further strengthen their contributions to Vietnam following their return. They have an opportunity to expand their networks, enhance their career development, and foster collaborative exchanges between Vietnam and the United States. The VEF Alumni Conference also highlights the achievements and contributions of the VEF Alumni, and explores the most effective means to prepare other VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their return to Vietnam and how they might best apply their

education and experience in the United States to the Vietnamese environment.

Dr. Lynne McNamara, VEF Executive Director, commented, "The Vietnam Education Foundation is 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 60 new Fellows to begin graduate programs and 4 new Visiting Scholars to do postdoctoral training in the United States in the fall of 2013. VEF is delighted that VEF Alumni hold important positions in the academic, corporate, and development sectors upon their return to Vietnam."

An initiative of the U.S. Congress, the Vietnam Education Foundation, a U.S. Federal Government agency, is in its tenth year of operations. As its flagship activity, the VEF Fellowship Program has placed **423** Fellows at **84** 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 five 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 2012, VEF has a network of 181 Alumni: 135 Fellows, 29 Visiting Scholars, and 17 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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