

February 21, 2012

Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director, VEF  
Mr. Christopher J. Fussner, Chair, VEF Board of Directors  
Vietnam Education Foundation  
2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Dr. McNamara and Mr. Fussner:

It is a pleasure to describe the academic and social contributions that our valued partnership with the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) has brought to the College of Engineering at the University of Michigan. This partnership began in 2004, and over the past eight years, twelve VEF fellows have engaged with seven engineering departments: Aerospace, Civil and Environmental; Chemical, Electrical and Computer Science; Industrial and Operations; Mechanical; and Materials Science. There are currently six VEF fellows working toward their doctorates. Six students have graduated, two with Master's degrees, and four with PhDs.

We recently asked VEF Fellows and their faculty advisors to describe their experiences. They emphasized the opportunities the fellowships provided: access to high caliber academic programs, lasting international research collaboration, and the value of the support systems provided by VEF. The following comments encapsulate this:

"Achieving the fellowship and being a VEF fellow at the University of Michigan...has been a wonderful and life-changing experience for me. Thanks to the VEF, I had an opportunity to access a world-class education, gain valuable experiences in a diverse environment and broaden my perspectives in life. I am sure after completing my education, I will be well-positioned to contribute to the mission of the VEF program: Helping Vietnam and bridging the two countries."

"I would describe this program as a fantastic success. [The expansion of the VEF program]...to encompass a larger number of fellowship students... is a smart move that will provide additional opportunities for talented Vietnamese students to obtain a graduate education and research training in the U.S. These students can then apply their acquired skills to address economic development and environmental protection concerns in Vietnam, to the betterment of relations between both nations."

The VEF program has brought a number of exceptional students to Michigan Engineering, and we look forward to the opportunity to continue to build collaborative research relationships with future and former VEF Fellows.

Sincerely,



Alec D. Gallimore, Ph.D.