



PRESS RELEASE

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APPOINTMENT OF DR. STEPHEN MAXNER AS CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS, THE VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION

Washington, D.C., January 23, 2009 - The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Stephen Maxner as Chairman of the VEF Board of Directors.

Dr. Stephen Maxner has served as the Director of the Vietnam Center at Texas Tech University (TTU) since July 2007. After serving in the United States Army for six years, Dr. Maxner earned his Ph.D. in American History at TTU with an emphasis on American Military and Diplomatic History. Since 1998, he has travelled extensively in Vietnam and Southeast Asia. Dr. Maxner has participated in the Vietnam Center Study Abroad Program by escorting TTU students each year to Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia, and Thailand. He has also been very active in promoting educational projects between Vietnamese universities and TTU. As the Vietnam Center Director, he also plays a central role in hosting educational delegations from Vietnam to TTU every year.

Dr. Maxner was appointed by former President Bush on October 10, 2008, to be a VEF Board Member. He was elected by the Board as its Chairman on January 6, 2009, and has assumed this function since.

VEF Executive Director, Prof. Dr. Vo Van Toi, commented: “Dr. Maxner’s deep knowledge of Vietnam’s history, his energetic approach, and his devotion to Vietnam higher education will enhance understanding and open opportunities for expanded relationships in Vietnam. He will help to further develop the relationship between VEF and the Vietnamese educational establishments in order to fulfill the VEF mission of building the relationship between Vietnam and the United States.”

VEF was created as a special initiative 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 Foundation is now in its sixth year of operations and incorporates assistance from the U.S. National Academies in developing and executing its programs. As its flagship activity, the VEF Fellowship program has placed 267 Fellows at 68 top U.S. graduate research institutions, mostly for doctoral degrees. The two other major VEF activities are the Visiting Scholar Program for Vietnamese nationals to pursue post-doctoral programs at U.S. universities for up to 12 months and the U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program for U.S. professors to teach at Vietnamese universities for one or two terms either via videoconferencing or onsite in Vietnam. VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars are required to return to Vietnam upon completion of their academic programs in the United States

For additional information on VEF, please visit its website at: www.vef.gov