

***The Vietnam Education Foundation***

**A U.S. Government  
Educational Program  
in Vietnam**

**Lynne McNamara, Ph.D.  
Executive Director**

# Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF)

- Created by an act of Congress in December 2000.
- Purpose:
  - To build closer relationships between the U.S. and Vietnam
  - To help Vietnam build excellence in science and technology through educational exchange
- Fixed funding: \$5 million/yr. until 2018



# VEF Board of Directors

- **Cabinet**: Secretaries of State, Treasury, and Education
- **Congress**: two U.S. Senators, two U.S. Representatives
- **U.S. citizenry**: Six Presidential appointees

# VEF Operations

- **U.S. Headquarters** – Arlington, VA  
Lynne McNamara, Ph.D., Executive Director  
+ 3 additional staff
- **Vietnam Field Office** – Hanoi  
Phuong Nguyen, Ph.D., Country Director +  
7 additional staff

# VEF Programs and Activities

1. **Fellowships (for Vietnamese)**
  - Graduate degrees in science, mathematics, engineering, technology at leading U.S. universities
  - 306 to date; up to 40 new Fellows per year
2. **Visiting Scholar grants (for Vietnamese)**
  - Postdoctoral training, research, and study up to one year at a U.S. university
  - 26 to date; up to 8 new Visiting Scholars per year
3. **U.S. Faculty Scholar grants (for Americans)**
  - U.S. professors teaching at VN universities on-site or via videoconferencing
  - 7 to date; up to 5 new Faculty Scholars per year
4. **Capacity building projects (in Vietnam)**
  - Vietnam OpenCourseWare Project
  - Lectures, Seminars, and Workshops
  - Reports on status of Vietnamese higher education

# VEF Fellowship Program



UNIVERSITY

- ❖ Began in **2003**
- ❖ **Funding**
  - ❖ \$27K for first 2 years to U.S. university
  - ❖ University supplements grants
  - ❖ From 3<sup>rd</sup> year forward, the University provides full funding.
- ❖ **Selection Process**
  - ❖ Review of applications and personal interviews conducted by the U.S. National Academies
- ❖ **Additional VEF funding**
  - ❖ Support for U.S. university applications, Pre-Departure Orientation, round-trip airfare, settling-in allowance
  - ❖ Professional development grants
  - ❖ VEF Annual Conference in the U.S.

# Visiting Scholar Grant Program

- Post-doctorate Vietnamese
- Self-designed professional development program
- Up to 12 months at U.S. university
- Funding by VEF
  - Pre-Departure Orientation, round-trip airfare, settling-in allowance
  - Monthly stipend, professional development grant
  - VEF Annual Conference in the U.S.
- Training of Trainers upon return

# U.S. Faculty Scholar Grant Program

- Teaching in fields of science, engineering, mathematics, medicine, technology in Vietnamese universities
- On-site or via videoconferencing
- One or two semesters
- \$55,000 grant
- Collaborative development expected
- Long-term relationship building

# Success stories

- 107 U.S. universities have joined the VEF Alliance.
- Many more qualified applicants apply for all VEF programs than VEF is able to support.
- Vietnamese Ministry of Education & Training is emulating the VEF Fellowship program.
- VEF has an excellent reputation throughout Vietnam and in the U.S.

# Success stories – Graduates are sought out

## Academic Training in the U.S.:

Cazoodle, Google, GM Research and Development Center, Intel, Sony Electronics, Texas Instruments

## Employment in Vietnam:

- Deputy General Director, Petro Vietnam Automation and Information Technology Company
- IT Officer, United Nations Development Program
- Measurement Science Assistant, ACNielsen
- General Director, Total Building System
- Research Scientist, National Institute of Hygiene and Epidemiology
- Senior Software Engineer, Viet Phu Co
- Environmental Scientist, Center for Environmental Research and Education

# Success in/for Vietnam

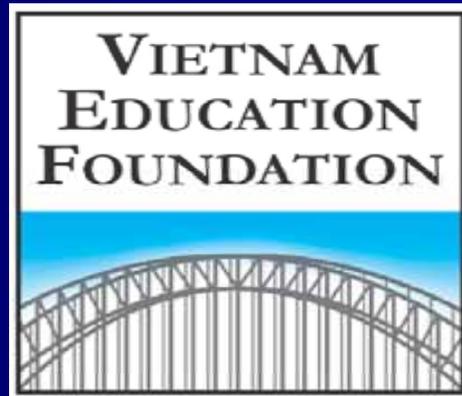
- **VEF is helping to build:**
  - Highly trained professionals
  - High level knowledge of the latest developments in science, engineering, medicine, and technology
  - Expectations of quality
  - Standards of excellence
  - Cooperation with U.S. academia
  - Understanding by U.S. universities of excellence among Vietnamese graduate students and postdocs

# Success in/for the U.S.

- **VEF is helping to build:**
  - Knowledge in the U.S. about Vietnam and about outstanding Vietnamese emerging scientists and engineers
  - Relationships between U.S. and Vietnamese universities, academicians
  - Cooperative, bi-national projects and research
  - Relationships with Vietnamese government entities: MOET, MOST, MARD, President, Prime Minister, and Deputy Prime Ministers
  - Example of excellence in a high quality U.S. exchange program

**Thank you!**

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**www.vef.gov**