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Sandy Hoa Dang
Executive Director

PRESS RELEASE

VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION (VEF): PRE-DEPARTURE ORIENTATION OF THE 2016 COHORT

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Hanoi, June 7, 2016 – The [Vietnam Education Foundation](http://www.vef.gov) (VEF), an independent U.S. Federal Government agency, is pleased to announce that 24 new Fellows will begin graduate studies in Fall 2016 and 5 new Visiting Scholars will undertake professional development programs during the upcoming academic year 2016-2017, at 21 leading universities in the United States (see the list below). The VEF Fellowship Program and the VEF Visiting Scholar Program are two of the outstanding educational programs offered by VEF in its mission to strengthen the relationship between Vietnam and the United States and foster understanding between the people of the two countries through educational exchange and capacity building. To prepare the new Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their transition to the United States, VEF provides a comprehensive Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO) program, which will be held from June 10-16, 2016, in Da Lat and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Of the 24 new VEF Fellows, 10 will be pursuing Master's degrees, 1 will be pursuing a Master's/Ph.D. degree, while 13 will be enrolled in Ph.D. degree programs at highly regarded U.S. universities in various fields of science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health sciences. The fields specifically include agriculture, biological and biomedical sciences, computer science, engineering, mathematical sciences, natural resources, physical sciences, and public health. The specializations in the field of engineering include electrical and computer and civil engineering. With this 14th cohort, VEF has placed a total of 546 Fellows at 101 highly regarded U.S. universities since 2003 when the VEF Fellowship Program began operations.

In addition, this year, the 10th cohort of Visiting Scholars will pursue self-designed postdoctoral training programs at highly regarded U.S. universities for up to 12 months, focusing on various fields in science and technology, including

engineering, natural resources, and physical sciences. With this new cohort, VEF has awarded a total of 55 Visiting Scholar grants since the Visiting Scholar Program began in 2007.

Ms. Sandy Dang, VEF Executive Director, commented, “We are extremely pleased with this outstanding 2016 cohort of 24 Fellows and 5 Visiting Scholars who will join the ever-growing VEF network of U.S.-educated scientists and engineers and who will make tremendous contributions to Vietnam. The 2016 cohort succeeded in receiving the VEF Fellowships and Visiting Scholar Grants through a highly competitive selection process based on the candidates’ intellectual and academic merit.”

The extensive PDO for the 2016 Fellows and Visiting Scholars includes an outdoor experiential learning/team building program that will help strengthen their identity and relationships as VEF Fellows and Scholars. The skills and experiences gained from these activities will be useful when they undertake their programs in the United States. Two additional days of lectures and presentations, addressing immigration and visa matters, financial issues, health issues, travel and insurance requirements, cultural adaptation, life in the United States, academic expectations, and maintaining connections to Vietnam will help them prepare for their transition to the United States.

For more information about VEF, please visit the VEF website at: www.vef.gov

U.S. UNIVERSITIES (21) HOSTING THE 2016 COHORT OF VEF FELLOWS (24) AND VISITING SCHOLARS (5)

No.	U.S. University
1	Johns Hopkins University
2	Louisiana State University
3	Michigan State University
4	New Mexico State University
5	Northeastern University
6	Oregon State University
7	Rutgers University
8	San Jose State University
9	Texas Tech University
10	University of Arkansas
11	University of California, Davis
12	University of Georgia
13	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

No.	U.S. University
14	University of Mississippi
15	University of Nebraska-Lincoln
16	University of Pennsylvania
17	University of Southern California
18	University of Texas at Austin
19	University of Utah
20	University of Virginia
21	Vanderbilt University