



**MINISTRY OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING**  
**VIETNAM INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT**

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Hanoi, 18 April 2012

Mr. Chris Fussner  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Dr. Lynne McNamara  
Executive Director  
Vietnam Education Foundation  
2111 Wilson Blvd., Suite 700  
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Fussner and Dr. McNamara:

It is my great pleasure to have been working closely with the Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) as the President of Hanoi University (formerly known as the Hanoi University of Foreign Studies) and more recently as the Director General of the Vietnam International Education Development (VIED) of the Ministry of Education and Training. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the work of VEF over the past 9 years. VEF activities and exchange programs have greatly contributed to Vietnam's higher education system in general and to VIED in particular.

With a strong commitment to support Vietnam in training high quality human resources in the fields of science and technology, VEF has put great effort into helping more than 400 young, talented Vietnamese nationals to realize their dreams of pursuing advanced graduate study in the United States. Many of them have graduated and returned to Vietnam, making significant contributions to different sectors. In addition to the VEF Fellowship Program, VEF has sent almost 40 Vietnamese Visiting Scholars to the United States to do post-doctoral professional development programs from 5 to 12 months. Furthermore, VEF has brought almost 30 U.S. Faculty Scholars to teach either onsite or via videoconferencing from one to two semesters at Vietnamese higher education institutions in Vietnam. The individual Fellows and Scholars in these exchange programs have served as excellent ambassadors of Vietnam and the United States, contributing significantly to the better understanding of both nations and, thus, enhancing the relationship between both countries.

While working toward achieving our goal of strengthening highly-skilled Vietnamese human resources for Vietnam, the VIED Fellowship Program (formerly known as the 322 Program) has received excellent support from VEF in various ways. First, VEF shared with VIED its open, transparent, and competitive application and selection process. For example, the VEF IT staff provided to VIED the shell of the VEF online management system (OMS), which we adapted to our own needs. Furthermore, VEF allowed VIED candidates, who wished to pursue U.S. graduate degrees in the STEM fields, to be interviewed by leading U.S. professors and scientists invited to Vietnam to interview the VEF Fellowship candidates. Finally, VEF facilitated opportunities for VIED staff to have first-hand experience by attending and observing the VEF interviews, Pre-Departure Orientation (PDO), and Oral Exam Orientation (OEO). In essence, VIED has emulated the VEF Fellowship application and selection process and has integrated many aspects of the VEF process into our own.

VIED has received support from VEF in other ways as well. Each year VEF sends to VIED a list of VEF Fellowship candidates, who were recommended for a Fellowship, but were not able to be funded by VEF. Some of these candidates obtained the VIED scholarship to study in the United States. In addition, VEF has provided support to VIED is through introductions to the VEF Alliance schools. As

a result, VIED has built up collaborations with U.S. institutions; and, thus, more and more Vietnamese students have benefitted from this valuable cost-sharing cooperation.

As a professional organization with excellent leadership and dedicated staff, VEF has provided policy makers and educators both in Vietnam and the United States with invaluable opportunities for networking, discussing common concerns, and exploring potential collaborations. I was an invited speaker at the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual VEF Fellows and Scholars Conference in January 2012 and had a good chance to witness again the excellence of the VEF community—a grand family of VEF Fellows, Scholars, Board members, and staff. The Fellows and Scholars acted on the conference theme of “Connect the Dots” by sharing knowledge, finding “All the Ways Home”, and even singing, and playing sports together. They showed their determination and solid plans of returning and contributing to Vietnam.

In brief, we truly value and appreciate the excellent achievements of VEF, its tremendous contributions to Vietnam’s education system, and its generous support of VIED. I hope that VEF will continue its excellent work of “bringing the United States and Vietnam closer together.”

Sincerely,



Nguyen Xuan Vang  
Director General  
Vietnam International Education Development (VIED)  
Ministry of Education and Training