



2111 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 700, Arlington, VA 22201 • www.vef.gov • Phone 703-351-5053 • Fax 703-351-1423

Lynne A. McNamara, Ph.D.
Executive Director

Board of Directors

Isaac F. Silvera, Ph.D.
Chairman
Professor
Harvard University

Richard Blumenthal
U.S. Senator

Quyên D. Chu, M.D., M.B.A.
Charles Knight, Sr. Endowed
Professor of Surgery
LSU Health Sciences Center-
Shreveport

Arne Duncan
U.S. Secretary of Education

David Duong
CEO, California Waste
Solutions

John Forbes Kerry
U.S. Secretary of State

Jacob J. Lew
U.S. Secretary of the Treasury

Edmund J. Malesky, Ph.D.
Associate Professor, Political
Science
Duke University

Anhlan P. Nguyen
IT Portfolio Manager
University of Texas
MD Anderson Cancer Center

Joseph R. Pitts
U.S. Congressman

Loretta Sanchez
U.S. Congresswoman

David Vitter
U.S. Senator

Quyên N. Vuong
Executive Director
International Children
Assistance Network (ICAN)

PRESS RELEASE

Contact:

In the United States: Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director, VEF U.S. Office,
Phone: 1-703-351-5053, email: lynnemcnamara@vef.gov

In Vietnam: Dr. Nguyen Thi Thanh Phuong, Country Director
VEF Hanoi Office, Phone: 84-4-3936-3670 (Ext: 24), email: phuongnguyen@vef.gov

**11TH ANNUAL VIETNAM EDUCATION FOUNDATION
FELLOWS AND SCHOLARS CONFERENCE**

December 18, 2013 (Hanoi/Washington, D.C.). The Vietnam Education Foundation (VEF) is pleased to announce that the 11th Annual VEF Fellows and Scholars Conference will be hosted by the University of Missouri (Mizzou) on January 3 - 5, 2014. The theme of the Conference is ***Interdisciplinary, International, and Interconnected***. Mizzou is one of the top public universities in the United States and is a member of the VEF Alliance of 110 highly regarded U.S. universities supporting the mission of VEF.

The purpose of VEF, an independent U.S. Federal Government agency, is to build the relationship between Vietnam and the United States through educational exchanges. VEF activities focus only on the sciences (natural, physical, and environmental), engineering, mathematics, medicine, and technology (including information technology). VEF educational exchange activities include three programs: (1) the Fellowship Program, which sends Vietnamese nationals to the United States for graduate degree programs; (2) the Visiting Scholar Program, which supports Vietnamese nationals, who already hold a doctorate, to further develop their professional skills via studies, research, and/or observational activities at leading U.S. academic institutions; and (3) the U.S. Faculty Scholar Program, which supports U.S. professors to teach courses in English at Vietnamese institutions from one to two semesters by teaching on site in Vietnam or by teaching via interactive, real-time videoconferencing from the United States. VEF began operations in 2003 and the year 2014 marks its 11th anniversary.

VEF is honored to have the Vietnamese Ambassador to the United States, H.E. Nguyen Quoc Cuong welcome the Fellows and Scholars, while the Chairman of the VEF Board of Directors, Dr. Isaac Silvera, will provide opening remarks. Keynote addresses will be delivered by the former U.S. Ambassador to Vietnam, H.E. Michael Michalak and by Dr. M. Frederick Hawthorne, Director of the International Institute of Nano and Molecular Medicine at the University of Missouri.

Representatives from Vietnamese institutions will also attend the conference, including Dr. Tran Ngoc Ca, Counselor, Head of the Science and Technology Office at the Vietnam Embassy in the United States, representing the Vietnam Ministry of Science and Technology; Mr. Nguyen Gia Lap, Deputy Director, International Cooperation Department, the Vietnam Academy of Science and Technology; and Dr. Truong Thi Anh Dao, Lecturer, Van Lang University. Invited speakers from several different U.S. universities also will join the Conference, including Dr. James Cremer, Professor of Computer Science at the University of Iowa and 2010 and 2012 VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar; Dr. Gordon DeFriese, Senior Faculty Fellow in Health Services Research, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; Mr. Jeffrey S. Goss, Associate Vice Provost, Vietnam/Southeast Asia Programs, Assistant Dean/Executive Director of the Office of Global Outreach and Extended Education in the School of Engineering, and Director of the Vietnam Higher Engineering Education Alliance, University of Arizona; Dr. Mike Hoeflich, John H. & John M. Kane Distinguished Professor of Law, University of Kansas; Dr. Mong-Hong Lee, M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, University of Texas, Houston and 2013 VEF U.S. Faculty Scholar; and other notable faculty speakers from the University of Missouri.

Dr. Lynne McNamara, Executive Director of VEF, commented: "VEF provides a significant link in creating professional and academic collaboration between Vietnam and the United States. Hosting the VEF Annual Conference at top U.S. universities, like the University of Missouri, gives our Fellows and Scholars a chance to get to know the excellence of different U.S. academic institutions."

During the 11th Annual Conference, VEF Fellows, Visiting Scholars, and U.S. Faculty Scholars will have the opportunity to network, join discussions on Connecting Research and Industry, on Science to Commercialization, and on Developing International Connections. Fellows and Scholars will exhibit posters in the Scientific Poster Competition. All these sessions help to prepare VEF Fellows and Visiting Scholars for their successful return to Vietnam.

Nearly 150 VEF Fellows and Scholars from top level universities across the United States will be present at this Conference.

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