

## Doctoral Fellowship for Enhancing Global Understanding

## Call for Applications VIETNAM

The College of Education is offering a doctoral study opportunity that has been established to study the K-12 and higher education reform efforts being made in Vietnam. Vietnam is a rapidly developing country that is stressing the importance of educational reform in fostering economic and cultural growth. Dr. John Dirkx, who has been working with Vietnamese educational institutions for the past 4 years, will lead the study tour. Participants in this study tour will:

1. Develop familiarity with the overall educational system within Vietnam - from primary school to graduate and professional schools;
2. Describe key projects or efforts at the primary, secondary, and postsecondary levels to improve administrative and instructional capacity within the country's educational institutions;
3. Discuss challenges the country faces in relying on and integrating western forms of technical assistance and ways of knowing within a deeply traditional, Confucianist culture;
4. Demonstrate ways in which the organizational change and capacity-building processes relate to broader literature on organizational change and educational improvement.
5. Further develop their intercultural awareness and competence.

Pre-departure Requirements: Participants are required to attend pre-trip monthly orientation sessions organized by the College of Education and do a modest amount of reading in preparation for these sessions. Each fellow is also responsible for securing his/her passport, visa, and immunizations. The College will provide letters of support as necessary.

Tour Details: The study tour is tentatively scheduled from June 4 to June 25, 2011. The group will depart Michigan for Hanoi, Vietnam's capital located in the northern most part of the country. In Hanoi, the group will visit key agencies and universities such as the Ministry of Education and Training, the Department of K-12 Hanoi Province, Hanoi National University - College of Foreign Languages and the University of Education, Hanoi, and schools and community colleges in the area. From Hanoi, the group will travel to the beautiful and ancient city of Hue, and Da Nang, a major U.S. air base during the Vietnam War and considered to be the commercial and educational center of Central Vietnam. The group will visit schools as well as Hue University and the University of Da Nang. The group will then travel to Nha Trang, a seaside city renown for some of the most beautiful beaches in the world, and visit Nha Trang University and Nha Trang Teacher College. From Nha Trang, the group will travel to Can Tho, a rapidly developing city in the southern part of the Mekong Delta and home of Can Tho University, a leading regional university and one of the top universities in Vietnam. In addition to the university, the group will visit a vocational and in-service education center, and primary and secondary schools, as applicable. Day trips are also planned to Kien Giang Community College and Tra Vinh University, located in the Mekong Delta region. Participants will also use this time to plan and organize presentations to CTU administrators and faculty on key topics arising from their study of organizational and capacity building processes on which they have gathered information over the course of the tour. Finally, in Ho Chi Minh City, the northern most port city of the Mekong Delta and one of the largest, bustling cities in Vietnam, the group plans to visit and make presentations at International University and Ho Chi Minh National University.

Covered Expenses: The College will offer a fellowship of \$3250, which will cover travel expenses, housing, and some cultural experiences. All travel arrangements will be made by the college as group

discounts will make the costs more affordable. All participants will be required to stay as a group for the duration of the trip.

**Eligibility & Selection Criteria:** Full-time doctoral students in EAD, TE, CEPSE, or KIN in the College of Education, who are in the first three years of their program and can demonstrate satisfactory progress toward their degree, are eligible to apply. Please note that if you are awarded this fellowship you may not assume any teaching assistantship that overlaps with the duration of this trip. As an applicant, you are asked to submit an updated vita, secure a recommendation from your advisor, and prepare a **two-page** application that addresses the following questions:

- What is your field of study, areas of research interest and particular areas (content, age group, role as in teacher, administrator, etc.) for observation and engagement?
- What particular research questions do you want to pursue through your visit? Why?
- One expectation in this program is that participants will present, in a seminar format, their own research or some topic in education research in which the applicant has knowledge or expertise.
- What seminar topic do you propose?
- What has made you interested in enhancing your understanding of global/ international issues in education?
- Have you been to Asian countries and if so, which ones and for how long? How will this trip to China enhance your understanding of this particular area?

**Travel and Accommodations:** The selected participants will fly to Hanoi and spend 2-3 days there as a cultural introduction to Vietnam, you will then fly to Hue. From Hue you will travel by van to Nha Trang, Can Tho, and Ho Chi Minh City to return to the United States.

In your application, please note any health-related concerns (e.g. asthma, mobility). Finally, this is a sponsored study trip and thus, no spouses may accompany participants even if the cost is covered by the participant or spouse. Please know that not all costs can be anticipated and we offer the best estimate based on current costs. If, at the conclusion of this trip, you wish to stay longer in Ho Chi Minh City or travel elsewhere in Vietnam or the Far East, any additional costs must be absorbed by you and will not be part of the overall College allocation. MSU will not be responsible for these post-study tour arrangements.

Applications will be reviewed by the College of Education. The selection process will involve an interview of finalists. Recipients of the fellowship will be notified by February 15, 2011.

Deadline for application submission: January 31, 2011

Send electronic applications to [dirkx@msu.edu](mailto:dirkx@msu.edu)

Please direct any questions to [dirkx@msu.edu](mailto:dirkx@msu.edu), or [mabokela@msu.edu](mailto:mabokela@msu.edu), or [razzaqu3@msu.edu](mailto:razzaqu3@msu.edu)

For more information about the host university, visit the web site:

Can Tho University: <http://www.ctu.edu.vn/en/>