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Western NIS Enterprise Fund provide grants to 13 students of over USD 1 mln to pursue studies in the U.S. and U.K. in 2016

KYIV, June 30, 2016 – The Western NIS Enterprise Fund, established by the U.S. Government via the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), has been continually funding the SEED Grant Scholarship program, which helps Ukrainians with grants covering up to 100% of tuition fees for MBA studies at top U.S. universities. This explanation was given by Jaroslawa Johnson, President and CEO of the Western NIS Enterprise Fund, while introducing this year's program recipients. The event was attended by the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, Geoffrey R. Pyatt.

Among the recipients of the SEED Grant program, scholarships were granted to nine students who will pursue their MBAs and four students majoring in MPA, MPP and LL.M studies. They will attend the best universities in the U.S. and the U.K., including the MIT Sloan School of Management, Yale School of Management, Duke Fuqua School of Business, University of Michigan Ross School of Business, University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and others.

“We are pleased to congratulate Ukrainians striving for personal growth for the sake of their country’s development,” stated **Jaroslawa Johnson, President and CEO of the Western NIS Enterprise Fund**. “This year we have been observing a positive tendency towards an increase in a number of applicants keen on entering leading American schools to gain necessary skills and implement their ideas in Ukraine. It is important that scholarship recipients represent various fields, ranging from investment banking and the oil and gas sector to education and communications”.

Geoffrey R. Pyatt, the U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine, commented that the U.S. is ready to invest in developing the professional competency of Ukrainian business leaders and state officials in order to make a real difference in reforming the country.

The Western NIS Enterprise Fund plans to invest about USD 5 mln, within the framework of the SEED Grant Scholarship, by supporting Ukrainian professionals in obtaining a business education in 2016-2018. By 2018, a total of 40 successful Ukrainians will receive a scholarship through the SEED Grant. In 2015, five students from Ukraine pursued studies with funding from the SEED Grant program. All scholarship recipients are to return to Ukraine after two years of study and apply their knowledge and skills towards the development of this country’s business and economy.

The SEED Grant program is a WNISEF-sponsored initiative that offers financial support to Ukrainian and Moldovan MBA and MPA applicants, who have successfully gained admission at one of the top 50 U.S. universities. Upon graduation, recipients will return to their country of origin and work there for a minimum of three years.

The Western NIS Enterprise Fund (WNISEF) is a USD \$150 million regional private equity fund, a pioneer in Ukraine and Moldova with more than two decades of successful experience investing in small and medium-sized companies. WNISEF was funded by the U.S. government via the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Since its inception, WNISEF’s cumulative

investments total over \$168 million to 118 companies in Ukraine and Moldova. In March 2015, WNISEF launched a \$30 million three-year legacy program, funded by a portion of the profits earned from its investment activities. Focus areas include economic leadership, local economic development, impact (social) investments, and export promotion.

For over 50 years, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has been offering economic and humanitarian assistance from the American people to different countries around the world. In Ukraine, USAID programs primarily focus on strengthening health services and supporting social transformations, economic growth, democracy and good governance. USAID has been providing economic and humanitarian help to Ukraine since 1992. To learn more about USAID programs in Ukraine, please contact the Public Affairs Department at +38 (044) 521-5753, and visit our website <http://ukraine.usaid.gov> or Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/USAIDUkraine>.