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Colbert appointed Executive Director of UC Santa Barbara Institute for Energy Efficiency

Daniel T. Colbert, Ph.D., has been appointed Executive Director of UC Santa Barbara's Institute for Energy Efficiency. In that capacity, he will be responsible for the Institute's strategic planning, marketing, business development, staff management, partnership and alliance management, and finances.

"Dan Colbert is exactly the kind of person we wanted to attract to this key position," said Matt Tirrell, Dean of the College of Engineering.

Prior to joining the Institute, Colbert was Chief Technology Officer and a principal at NGEN Partners, a Santa Barbara-based venture capital firm focusing its investments in "cleantech"- products and services that positively affect the environment.

Colbert earned his bachelor's degree in chemistry at Cornell University and his Ph.D. in physical chemistry at The University of Wisconsin-Madison; he did postdoctoral work at UC Berkeley and Lawrence-Berkeley National Laboratory. He then joined the Chemistry faculty at Rice University in Houston, where he worked closely with nanotechnology pioneer and Nobel laureate Professor Rick Smalley on carbon nanotubes; that work led to a founding role, with Smalley, in Carbon Nanotechnologies, Inc. (CNI). He left CNI for the position at NGEN.

"We're fortunate to engage someone with Dan's broad technology-based experience in nanotech research, which is a key component for the Institute, and high-tech business start-ups, where he has experience in both company operations and in financing start-ups," commented Professor John Bowers, Director of the Institute for Energy Efficiency. "Dan's coming aboard is a significant milestone in the development of the Institute. With his help, we're able to accelerate both our programmatic work and our fund raising."

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