



January 15, 2008

Accomplished scientist chosen to lead ISEEE

The University of Calgary has chosen an accomplished, nationally prominent scientist to lead its Institute for Sustainable Energy, Environment and Economy (ISEEE).

Dr. David Layzell will become executive director of ISEEE on July 1, 2008, succeeding interim director Dr. Warren Veale.

Layzell is currently professor and Queen's Research Chair for a Sustainable Bioeconomy at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario. He is an expert on the sustainable bioeconomy, a rapidly growing sector focused on energy security and climate change solutions.

From 1998 to early 2008, he served as founding president and CEO of BIOCAP Canada, a national university-based research foundation that coordinated, funded and communicated multi-disciplinary research on bioenergy and greenhouse gas emission offsets from agriculture and forestry.

"I am delighted and honoured to be part of the ISEEE team," Layzell said. "The world needs energy, but we need to learn how to produce and use energy in ways that are both environmentally and economically sustainable."

"The University of Calgary, through ISEEE, is ideally positioned to be a global leader in generating the multi-disciplinary insights and technologies to inform policy and investment decisions that will take us to more sustainable energy systems."

"Dr. Layzell's knowledge, experience and leadership abilities will guide ISEEE as it continues to work with industry and other partners to advance a top priority in the U of C's Academic Plan—to be an international leader in energy and environment, an area that is strategically important for Alberta and the rest of Canada," said University of Calgary president Dr. Harvey Weingarten,

Under Layzell's leadership, BIOCAP (www.biocap.ca) leveraged more than \$54 million in funding from governments, leading industries and environmental groups to support university research involving more than 250 faculty and 400 graduate students at 38 universities across Canada.

As a professor of plant science in the Department of Biology at Queen's University, Layzell authored more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and holds seven U.S. patents. His research accomplishments have been recognized by a number of awards, including an NSERC EWR Steacie Fellowship and election as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

Layzell is also co-founder of Qubit Systems Inc., a biological instrumentation company that designs, builds and markets instruments for research and teaching in the biological and environmental sciences.

“The U of C is very fortunate to attract a person of such significant experience and scientific accomplishment to be ISEEE’s executive director,” said ISEEE interim director Dr. Warren Veale. “David Layzell is the right person at the right time.”

Veale, former dean of Graduate Studies at the U of C, has served as ISEEE’s interim director since July 1, 2007. He took over from Dr. Robert Mansell, who served for nearly four years as ISEEE’s founding managing director before going on sabbatical.

ISEEE (www.iseee.ca) works to find solutions to our energy-and-environment challenges, by integrating multi-disciplinary research, education and innovation in sustainable energy, the environment and the economy. ISEEE’s initiatives are developed in collaboration with U of C faculties and schools and partners in industry, government and other sectors.

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ISEEE release 2/2