



SAN DIEGO STATE  
UNIVERSITY

# College of Engineering – Associate Dean ADMINISTRATIVE SEMINAR

## “Effective Organizations: Leading with and Evolving Your Strengths”

Ben J. Stuart, Ph.D., P.E.

Exec. Director, Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment  
Director, Biofuels Research Laboratory  
Professor, Civil Engineering  
Ohio University, Athens, OH 45701

**Friday, February 13, 2015 – 1:15pm-2:30pm**

**Geology, Mathematics, Computer Science Building (GMCS), Rm 301**

While originally intended as an esteemed complement, more often the phrase “Jack of all trades” is followed by the far less complimentary “master of none”, suggesting individuals’ knowledge and abilities are either brilliant but isolated or diverse but shallow. As all organizations are comprised of individuals, it is incumbent upon the leadership of each institution to establish and evolve effective teams to realize the vision of that body. The mission of academia is multi-faceted and engages a multitude of primary constituencies, and by design is comprised of faculty and administrators which include many of the brightest minds in our society. Therefore, the success of every academic institution is incumbent upon optimizing interpersonal relationships between those possessing exceptional intellects in the execution of a defined strategic plan to accomplish short- and long-term Department, College and University goals.

In my 20 years as an academic professional, I have consistently defined engineering for my students as “the manipulation of the laws of science and nature for a desired outcome.” As professional problem solvers, College of Engineering faculty possess both the potential for developing unrivaled expertise in specific fields of study while maintaining the ability to adapt fundamental principles in undertaking novel approaches to solving the diverse and complex challenges facing modern societies. Applied to the research mission of the University, College of Engineering leadership is therefore charged with understanding the myriad of research strengths of each unit and faculty member across the University and subsequently facilitating synergies between diverse groups in the creation of effective cross-disciplinary research teams.

**Speaker Bio:** Dr. Stuart is a Professor of Civil Engineering at Ohio University where he also serves as Chair of the Faculty Senate’s Finance and Facilities Committee which places him on the Ohio University Board of Trustees Resource Committee, co-Chair of the University Benefits Council, Chair of the Responsibility Centered Management (RCM) Faculty Liaisons, member of the University Budget Planning Council, and member of the University Facilities Planning Advisory Committee. He is currently serving on two master planning efforts including the University Comprehensive Master Plan, is a member of the Council for Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity, and previously co-Chaired the Presidential Advisory Council for Sustainability Planning which resulted in the development of the University’s Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan. Dr. Stuart also serves as the Executive Director of the Institute for Sustainable Energy and the Environment and as Director of the Biofuels Research Laboratory. He received his Ph.D. from the Department of Chemical and Biochemical Engineering at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.

**San Diego State University**

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