



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Beet Street Launches Science Café Fort Collins First Café slated for January 9 at EECL

In the tradition of the growing international Café Scientifique movement, Beet Street will launch Science Café Fort Collins on January 9, 2008. Held on the second Wednesday of each month, Science Café Fort Collins will host expert scientists from a diverse range of disciplines who make a short presentation followed by questions, answers and lively discussion among those in attendance. Science Cafés are free and open to the public.

To kick off the Fort Collins series, Dr. Bryan Willson, director of the CSU Clean Energy Supercluster and founder of the Engines and Energy Conversion Laboratory (EECL), will speak on “Thinking and Acting Globally on Clean Energy.” This first café will be held at the EECL, located at 430 No. College Avenue. Because the venue size is limited, RSVP is required by calling 970-419-8240. Those planning to attend are encouraged to arrive between 5:30-6:00pm for refreshments sponsored by CooperSmith’s Pub & Brewing of downtown Fort Collins. The presentation begins at 6:00pm, and discussion wraps up by 7:00pm.

Since its founding in 1992, the EECL has become one of the most influential engine research programs in the US, developing global environmental solutions for engines of all sizes and types. A professor of Mechanical Engineering at CSU, Dr. Willson has also led initiatives in clean emissions, algae-based biofuel, and retrofit technologies. He has served as advisor or consultant to numerous industries, government agencies and international environmental concerns.

Details on speakers, topics and location of future Science Cafés will be posted on the web, <http://www.beetstreet.org/en/Science-Cafe.html>.

In announcing the new series, Executive Director Carol Bennis expressed Beet Street’s commitment to expanding the cultural offerings in the downtown area. “We are pleased to create a forum where the general public can benefit from the great knowledge and research of some of the top science minds in this country, many of whom live in our community. The Science Café offers access, understandable explanations of some of the highly debated topics of the day, as well as an

awareness of less publicized findings or initiatives that nevertheless have a significant impact on our lives.”

The Science Café concept originated in English pubs in Leeds, U.K. in 1988. Since then, over 160 cafes, including the latest one in Fort Collins, have emerged around the world, stimulating dialog and aha-moments as people connect science to their everyday world. Other Science Cafes in Colorado are held regularly in Denver, Boulder, and Colorado Springs.

Beet Street (www.beetstreet.org) is an economic development initiative created by the Fort Collins Downtown Development Authority in 2007 to distinguish Old Town Fort Collins as a cultural destination that fosters, celebrates, and inspires human creativity through diverse cultural experiences and programming. Beet Street will create a collaborative learning community in Fort Collins, Colorado, where everyone of every age is welcome to share in discussion, reflection, and creative expression.

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Full Bio for Dr. Bryan Willson

Dr. Bryan Willson is a Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Colorado State University and Director of the new Clean Energy Supercluster. He is also:

- Founder and Director of the Engines and Energy Conversion Laboratory. Since its founding in 1992, The EECL grown to become one of the most prominent and influential engine research programs in the US, with particular expertise in the areas of large industrial engines, natural gas engines, two-stroke engines, and “hazardous air pollutants”.
- Co-founder and initial Executive Director of EnviroFit International, Ltd. EnviroFit is a non-profit corporation committed to improving global health through the development and dissemination of technology solutions to environmental problems in the developing world.
- Co-founder and Director of the Global Innovation Center for Energy, Environment, and Health. The Global Innovation Center is a joint program of the College of Engineering and College of Business to develop and disseminate technology solutions to improve the human condition.
- Co-founder of Solix Biofuels, a CSU-affiliated startup founded to enhance energy security worldwide by developing and commercializing sustainable algae-based bio-fuel technologies and products.

Dr. Willson received his PhD from the University of Texas at Austin in 1988, the same year he joined the CSU faculty. He teaches in the areas of design, dynamics, internal combustion engines, energy, and sustainable development. He is the Principal or Co-Principal Investigator on over \$25 million in funded research; which has funded over 350 graduate and undergraduate students; and is author or co-author of over 200 journal papers, conference proceedings, or technical reports.