The Don Difference: Steven Stevenson
Video Transcript

0:00-0:16 I'm a new molecule chaser, and we like to make new molecules. Our new molecules have possible application areas. Possible application areas include medical agents, pharmaceuticals, MRI contrast agents.

0:17-1:04 I was hired at IPFW in 2011 to do three things: teaching, research, and service. My research area is in new molecule production, new molecule separation, and purification of new molecular structures that we can investigate, publish, write up grant proposals, take our students to conferences, and mentor undergraduate students, and help build their careers and their CVs so that those who want to get into graduate school, medical school, or pharmacy school, they can have undergraduate research to supplement their degrees.

1:05-1:31 Finding a new molecule and isolating it are two different things because you make these molecules, a hundred different kinds. Then you really need to isolate it, prove what the structure is, which usually means getting about a milligram or two of material purified. Then send it to a collaborator to get an X-ray crystal structure, which is a 3-dimensional arrangement of atoms and you can prove that what you think you have really is.

1:32-1:40 When my students purify a sample and purify a new molecule and we know what it is, identify what it is, we'll be invited to go give talks.

1:41-1:51 I've been blessed with multiple National Science Foundation grants based on the work of these undergraduate research students and the publications that they do.

1:52-2:11 I've always had this philosophy: When you get funding or opportunities, give them to the students. Put it into the students. Put the resources into the students and everything will all work out. People continue to say, "How in the world do you get all that research done?" I say, "Well, we have some smart people at IPFW." And we really do.

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