

# PIONEERS IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## TUESDAY, APRIL 22

### 11:00 AM

### DISCOVERY LEARNING RESEARCH CENTER ROOM 143 PURDUE UNIVERSITY

## “Navigating the Multiple Valleys of Death on the Road to Success in the Energy Storage Field”



### **ABSTRACT:**

PolyPlus Battery Company was founded in 1990 as a 2-year experiment in entrepreneurship. In over 20 years of operation the Company has not taken money from a single venture capital firm, yet has managed to build a substantial intellectual property portfolio (over 170 issued and pending patents), has licensed and worked with some of the worlds largest battery companies, has installed a first of its kind pilot line, and is on the verge of manufacturing batteries with unprecedented energy densities. During this time PolyPlus has also established itself as a world leader in lithium-air, lithium-water, and lithium-sulfur battery technologies. In this talk I will cover some of the challenges, both financial and technical, that we have had to overcome to date, and provide a glimpse of the future for next generation battery technology.

### **BIO:**

Steven J. Visco is the Chief Executive Officer, CTO and co-founder of PolyPlus Battery Company in Berkeley, California, as well as a Guest Scientist in the Materials Science Division at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Brown University in 1982 and spent two years as a Postdoctoral Scientist at the University of California, Santa Barbara. In 1984, Dr. Visco joined the staff at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory as a Principal Investigator in the Materials Science Division where his research interests have included solid-state ionic devices such as batteries and fuel cells. Steven Visco co-founded PolyPlus Battery company in 1991. Dr. Visco has published over 75 articles in scholarly journals as well as monographs and other publications, he holds 94 issued U.S. patents and more than 200 international patents. He serves on the Technical Advisory Board of the Conrad Foundation and in the Scientific Committee of the CIC Energigune Institute in Miñano, Spain. In recognition of his outstanding contributions to energy storage devices, in 2013, the Chamber of Commerce of the City of Berkeley awarded him in 2013 the Visionary Award, in 2012 he received the Edison Gold Award, in 2011 Time Magazine selected his work for its 50 Best Inventions of 2011 issue and in the same year, the International Battery Association Technology Award was given to him for “Outstanding Contributions to the development of Lithium-Air and Lithium-Water Batteries”

**Steven J. Visco,**  
*Chief Executive  
Officer and CTO,  
Polyplus Battery  
Company*