

Steve Ritz Biography

Steve Ritz is a professor of physics and the director of the Santa Cruz Institute for Particle Physics (SCIPP) at the University of California, Santa Cruz. Prior to joining the faculty at UCSC he was an astrophysicist at NASA's Goddard Spaceflight Center, where he served as the Fermi (nee GLAST) Project Scientist from 2003 through most of the first year of science operations. In 2013, he took on the role of Camera Project Scientist for the Large Synoptic Survey Telescope (LSST). His current interests include studies related to understanding the nature of dark matter and dark energy.

In his spare time, Ritz has also been involved in several aspects of science policy, including most recently serving as chair of the Particle Physics Project Prioritization Panel (P5) and co-chair of the National Academies' Committee on Astronomy and Astrophysics.

Ritz received his B.A. in physics and music from Wesleyan University and his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and a recipient of the NASA Outstanding Leadership Medal, and he was a Sloan Foundation Fellow in Physics. In 2012, he received a UCSC Excellence in Teaching Award.