

Distinguished Science and Technology Award

Dr. Shuji Nakamura



**Professor, Materials Department of the College of Engineering
*University of California, Santa Barbara***

Professor Shuji Nakamura, the inventor of the blue LED, is a recipient of the 2014 Nobel Prize for Physics “for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes, which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources.”

Professor Nakamura is a naturalized US citizen from Ehime, Japan. He and his family currently reside in Santa Barbara.

Professor Nakamura obtained his B.E., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Tokushima, Japan in 1977, 1979, and 1994, respectively. He joined Nichia Chemical Industries Ltd. in 1979. In 1988, he spent a year at the University of Florida as a visiting research associate. In 1989, he started the research of blue LEDs using group-III nitride materials. It was while working for Nichia that Nakamura invented the first high brightness blue gallium nitride (GaN) LED, which is the key to white LED lighting. He also developed the first group-III nitride-based violet laser diodes (LDs) in 1995.

Since 2000, Nakamura has been a professor of Materials and Electrical & Computer Engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He holds more than 200 US patents and over 300 Japanese patents. He has published over 550 papers in his field. Professor Nakamura is the Research Director of the Solid State Lighting & Energy Electronics Center and The Cree Chair in Solid State Lighting & Displays. He co-founded Soraa, Inc. in 2008, which operates vertically integrated fabrication facilities in California’s Silicon Valley and Santa Barbara.

