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Michael Burcham Leaves Big Shoes to Fill at the Nashville Entrepreneur Center

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Now that Michael Burcham has officially announced he will be leaving his role as CEO of the Nashville Entrepreneur Center next year, the question becomes who will replace him?

To say his successor has big shoes to fill at the Entrepreneur Center barely does justice to his achievements there.

"We need a rock star, who also is a professor, who will work 80 hours a week for very little pay, who is extremely creative," said Tod Fetherling, laughing at the standards Burcham has set. Until recently Fetherling chaired Stratasan, one of the first companies born out of the Entrepreneur Center.

Burcham, who has developed the center into a nationally recognized entrepreneurship hub, said Wednesday he is leaving his post to build his fourth health care company. Since the center was created in 2010, he has transformed it from a small office on Broadway into a 20,000-square-foot building bustling with entrepreneurs that has helped build more than 130 companies generating more than \$100 million in revenue and \$65 million in funding.

"Our entrepreneur center has become a model for the nation, and Michael's vision and leadership have made that happen," said John Ingram, chairman of the center's board.

Burcham plans to launch his new company this spring, one he describes as "putting the patient back at the center of the care process" that will be similar to palliative care. He says he will remain in his role until a successor is found and he still plans to be involved with the center, either as part of its board, as an entrepreneur-in-residence or as part of the 300-person mentor network that he helped build over the past five years.