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Dr. Noël Bakhtian is the Director of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES), a research, education, and innovation consortium bringing together Idaho National Laboratory with the public research universities of Idaho and Wyoming: Boise State University, Idaho State University, University of Idaho, and University of Wyoming.

Prior to joining CAES, Dr. Bakhtian served as a Senior Policy Advisor for environment and energy in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Before that, she served as the inaugural Energy-Water Nexus lead at the DOE Office of International Affairs, worked as technical lead on numerous innovative grant programs for DOE's Wind and Water Power Technologies Office, and served as an energy and environment staffer in the U.S. Senate, through a number

of American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) and American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) science and technology policy fellowships.

In 2018, Dr. Bakhtian was selected in the first cohort of the Alfred Lee Loomis Innovation Council, supporting the Stimson Center, which works to solve the world's greatest threats to security and prosperity. She has also served since 2011 on the Board of Trustees of the Summer Science Program (SSP), one of the most prestigious and longest running pre-college research opportunities for gifted young scientists. Dr. Bakhtian was recently selected as the 11st most powerful female engineer of the year by Business Insider.

Dr. Bakhtian earned her engineering doctorate at Stanford University's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics; holds masters degrees from Stanford University and the University of Cambridge, where she was a Churchill Scholar; and completed her bachelors degree in mechanical engineering and physics at Duke University.