

President Lori Barber – President of College of Eastern Idaho

Short Bio:

Dr. Lori Barber began her tenure as President of College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) on August 1, 2024. Prior to her appointment as president, she held several senior leadership roles at CEI, beginning as Director of General Education and later serving as the institution's inaugural Dean of General Education in 2018. In June 2019, she was appointed Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs.

Dr. Barber's innovative leadership has been instrumental in advancing institutional growth and shaping CEI's academic and student affairs framework. Under her leadership, CEI has experienced unprecedented growth in credit enrollments since 2017, and she recently led the successful launch of the college's first two Bachelor of Applied Science degrees.

Dr. Barber holds a Doctor of Educational Leadership and Innovation from Arizona State University and a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies in History and Anthropology from Idaho State University, where her research focused on the history and anthropology of food. She brings more than twenty-five years of experience across K-12 and postsecondary education.

A steadfast advocate for the community college mission, Dr. Barber believes deeply in the power of education to create opportunity, hope, and transformation. She is committed to identifying and removing barriers to student success. Married for 36 years, she has two grown sons. In her spare time, she teaches yoga, hikes in Idaho's wilderness, writes, and enjoys long walks with her two dogs.

Long Bio:

Dr. Lori Barber began her tenure as President of College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) on August 1, 2024. Prior to her appointment as president, she served in several senior leadership roles at CEI, including Director of General Education, Dean of General Education, and Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs. Her innovative leadership has played a central role in shaping the institution's academic and student affairs framework and advancing CEI's strategic growth.

Under Dr. Barber's leadership, CEI has experienced unprecedented growth in credit enrollments since 2017. She recently led the successful development and launch of CEI's

first two Bachelor of Applied Science degrees, marking a significant milestone in the institution's evolution.

Dr. Barber holds a Doctor of Educational Leadership and Innovation from Arizona State University and a master's degree in interdisciplinary studies in History and Anthropology from Idaho State University, where her research focused on the history and anthropology of food. She has worked in education for more than twenty-five years across both K-12 and postsecondary settings.

From 2008 to 2011, Dr. Barber lived in southern France with her family, where she gained international education experience at an International Baccalaureate secondary school in Luynes, France. During this time, she contributed to accreditation efforts, teaching, capacity building, and fundraising initiatives.

In her higher education career, Dr. Barber served as an assistant lecturer at Idaho State University, where she designed and taught several original courses, including Food History and Food & Culture. Her teaching experience spans freshman- through senior-level courses, as well as honors education.

Dr. Barber serves on numerous local, state, and national boards and committees. She has been a member of the Idaho Workforce Development Council since 2019, following her appointment by the Governor, and played a key role in operationalizing the LAUNCH initiative, which provides up to \$8,000 to Idaho high school graduates for postsecondary education. Locally, she serves on the Eastern Idaho Regional Medical Center Board of Directors. Nationally, she serves on the U.S. Department of Energy's BETO Bridges National Advisory Board and was recently appointed to the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco's Salt Lake City Branch Board of Directors. Dr. Barber is also a frequent keynote speaker and presenter at conferences at the local, state, and national levels.

Dr. Barber is deeply committed to the community college mission and believes in the power of education to create opportunity, hope, and lasting transformation. She is dedicated to identifying and removing barriers to student success. Married for 36 years, she has two grown sons. In her spare time, she teaches yoga, hikes in Idaho's wilderness, writes, and enjoys long walks with her two dogs.