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Dr. Noël Bakhtian is the director of the Center for Advanced Energy Studies (CAES), a research consortium between Idaho National Laboratory, Boise State University, Idaho State University, University of Idaho, and University of Wyoming.

Prior to joining CAES, Dr. Bakhtian served as a senior policy adviser for environment and energy in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Prior to OSTP, 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, consulted on energy R&D and investment for DARPA, and served as an energy and environment Fellow in the U.S. Senate.

Dr. Bakhtian earned her engineering doctorate at Stanford University's Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics; holds master's degrees from Stanford University and the University of Cambridge, where she was a Churchill Scholar; and completed her bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and physics at Duke University. She was recently selected as the eleventh most powerful female engineer of the year by Business Insider.