

Bob Kustra

Bob Kustra served as president of Boise State University, the largest public university in Idaho, from 2003-2018. He led the university in dynamic growth in student enrollment, graduate college and doctoral programs, new construction, fundraising and research, culminating in Boise State's classified as a national doctoral research university in 2017. The creation of the College of Innovation and Design and the award-winning Center for the Visual Arts were also notable achievements of his presidency.

With a long and distinguished career in public service in Illinois, Kustra served two terms as Illinois lieutenant governor following 10 years in the legislature. He chaired the Illinois Board of Higher Education, responsible for funding and oversight of the state's nine public universities.

Prior to joining Boise State, Dr. Kustra served as president of Eastern Kentucky University and the Midwestern Higher Education Commission. He has held faculty positions at the University of Illinois-Springfield, Loyola University of Chicago, the University of Illinois-Chicago, and Northwestern University.

He currently hosts Reader's Corner, a weekly show on Boise's NPR station featuring conversations with some of the nation's leading authors and is a columnist for the Idaho Statesman.

Dr. Kustra holds three degrees in Political Science, including a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois, MA from Southern Illinois University and BA from Benedictine College, Atchison, Kansas.