



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Jacob Haeberle, Dean of General Education: jacob.haeberle@cei.edu; 208-535-5308

Dr. Jessica Sargent of College of Eastern Idaho Wins Prestigious Innovative Educator Award



IDAHO FALLS, Idaho — College of Eastern Idaho (CEI) is proud to announce that Dr. Jessica Sargent, faculty lead and instructor in Social Sciences, has been awarded the **Innovative Educator Award** in the Social and Behavioral Ways of Knowing at the 2024 General Education Summit. This marks the first time a CEI instructor has received this prestigious award, underscoring the institution’s commitment to delivering top-tier education.

The **Innovative Educator Award** is presented annually by the Idaho State Board of Education at the General Education Summit, which gathers representatives from Idaho’s public higher education institutions to discuss academic competencies, trends, and student success. Dr. Sargent’s recognition shines a spotlight on the high standard of education at CEI, particularly within General Education programs.

“We are immensely proud of Jessica’s achievement,” said **Jacob Haeberle**, CEI’s Dean of General Education, during his speech at the awards ceremony. “I often have the opportunity to walk past Jessica’s class and every time, I am consistently impressed by the elite teaching standards she upholds.”

Dr. **Dana Cotton**, A.A. Department Chair, echoed the sentiment in her nomination letter: “Jessica’s teaching materials and topics center around human behavior, and she continually includes students’ thoughts and experiences throughout her lessons. Her ability to relate content to students’ lives and provide meaningful ways for them to practice durable skills proves she goes well beyond her content and aims to empower students to be well-rounded learners and humans.”

This year, CEI’s **General Education Faculty of the Year Committee** selected two instructors, Dr. Sargent and **Dr. Benjamin Burrows** from the Scientific Ways of Knowing, to represent the college at the state level. The General Education Committee then reviewed nominations from across Idaho, ultimately choosing six winners, including Dr. Sargent, who was honored during the Summit held at Boise’s JUMP Center on **October 10th and 11th**.

CEI President Lori Barber remarked, "Jessica is an extraordinary instructor; we are all so proud of her and feel fortunate she is a faculty member at CEI where she shares her talents with students and the entire campus."

Dr. Sargent's award is a significant milestone for CEI, as it is the first time the college has received such recognition at the state level. The award highlights the caliber of instruction and the deep engagement with students that is a hallmark of CEI's programs.

For those inspired by this achievement and seeking to enhance their education, CEI is currently enrolling for **Spring 2025**. To learn more about our programs or to apply, visit **cei.edu** or contact our **Advising Team** for assistance.

For media inquiries, please contact **Advising at advising@cei.edu**.

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About College of Eastern Idaho

College of Eastern Idaho (CEI, formerly EITC) offers associate degrees, technical certificates, and workforce training programs to help students achieve their educational and career goals. With a focus on affordability, accessibility, and student success, CEI is dedicated to providing high-quality education and training to the residents of eastern Idaho. Visit <https://cei.edu> for more information.