

Eric W. Kaler became president of Case Western Reserve University in July 2021. Previously, he served as university president at the University of Minnesota for eight years. Since joining Case Western Reserve, Kaler's focus has been on growing and improving the undergraduate program, building research productivity and connecting to the university community.



An accomplished chemical engineer and visionary university leader, Kaler's career in higher education spans more than 40 years. He has significant expertise in elevating research, expanding fundraising, forming collaborative partnerships, encouraging entrepreneurship and advocating for diversity, equity and inclusion.

Kaler holds 10 patents and has published more than 200 peer-reviewed papers. He serves as a member of the National Institute of Standards and Technology's Visiting Committee on Advanced Technology. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Greater Cleveland Partnership, where he also co-chairs the Innovation and Growth Committee. In addition to election to the National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Kaler is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Chemical Society, and the Neutron Scattering Society of America. He was a member of the inaugural class of the National Academy of Inventors.

Born in Vermont, Kaler is a first-generation college graduate who earned his bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the California Institute of Technology and his PhD in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota. He and his wife, Karen, have two adult sons and two granddaughters.