

Eric J. Barron

President, Florida State University

The Florida State University Board of Trustees has selected alumnus Eric J. Barron, director of the National Center for Atmospheric Research, to serve as the university's 14th president, succeeding T.K. Wetherell, who became president in 2003.

A nationally prominent geoscientist and skilled administrator, he was director of the highly prominent national laboratory, the National Center for Atmospheric Research (NCAR) in Boulder, Colorado, since 2008.

In his first year there, he developed a strategic plan to address budget challenges that was praised by the National Science Foundation for its transparency and commitment to the future. This year, the center had its greatest annual budget increase in nearly a decade.

Prior to taking the position at NCAR, Barron was dean of the newly formed Jackson School of Geosciences at the University of Texas at Austin. That school currently is executing a strategic plan developed while he was dean that expanded the faculty, transformed student recruitment and services, developed a lifelong connection to alumni and created a stronger sense of community.

From 1986 to 2006, Barron was at Pennsylvania State University, where he was professor of geosciences, director of the Earth System Science Center, director of the EMS Environment Institute, and finally dean of the College of Earth and Mineral Sciences. While he was dean, his college led all other colleges at Penn State in research expenditures per faculty member, it excelled at teaching and it emerged as an innovative leader on campus in a renewed focus on students and student services.

Barron is a Fellow in the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Geophysical Union, the American Meteorological Society and the Geological Society of America. He has received many national awards as a scholar, researcher and distinguished lecturer, has published extensively and has been editor or a member of the editorial boards of a dozen academic journals. He has testified before Congress and has chaired numerous committees in service to the federal government, such as the NASA Senior Review for the Earth Sciences in 2005. He has chaired committees and panels of the National Research Council since 1987 and currently chairs "An Ocean Infrastructure for U.S. Ocean Research in 2030."

Dr. Barron earned a bachelor's degree in geology from Florida State University as an honors student in 1973. He holds master's and doctoral degrees from the University of Miami, both in oceanography.