

Pioneer Award

Please attach this form to your one page nomination for AAPL Pioneer Award summarizing: **1) Significant impact to the land profession with a distinct contribution; 2) Only one award per year to be presented; 3) No regional awards; 4) No minimum age or work requirement; 5) could be posthumously; 6) Open to groups or companies, not just individuals. (Can be non-members)** To be presented to an individual, group or company who at any time has significantly impacted the land profession with a fundamentally distinct contribution. Current Executive Committee members may not be submitted, and self-nominations will not be considered.

NAME OF NOMINEE/COMPANY/GROUP: Debra Langley

LOCAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATION (If applicable): Tulsa Association of Petroleum Landmen

NOMINATED BY: Debra Bodenhamer, CPL

Debra Langley is considered a woman pioneer in the oil and gas industry of which was predominately a “man’s world” until the early 80’s when more women began appearing in leadership roles. Upon her recent retirement, Mrs. Langley had over 40 years of experience and is still a well-known industry name throughout Oklahoma. In Debra’s early years, not only were oil and gas lease bonus’ paid through bank drafts, but she also remembers many trips to Western Union where the Lessor’s bonus was paid by wire. Mrs. Langley began managing land departments at Avanti Energy Corporation in 1980 as Vice President of Land and has continued her growth and experience with high profile companies such as Oxley Petroleum, Home-Stake Oil & Gas, Cimarex Energy, Weinkauff Petroleum, and Petroquest Energy. Debra has worked in the mid-continent in every land aspect of oil and gas and the related exploratory efforts with vast experience in each phase of new drills, workovers, recompletions as well as gas marketing. She has provided numerous hours of expert testimony at the Corporation Commission and moved with the industry into the horizontal drilling world in 2010. Debra’s most recent role before retirement was as Vice President of Land for Rimrock Resource Operating, LLC where she led a staff of 11 employees, plus multiple contractors. At Rimrock, she and her land team developed and enhanced properties through acquisition and the drilling of 20 new horizontal wells, greatly increasing Rimrock’s value as a private equity startup. Debra was on the “original Rimrock team” which began in 2014 to obtain funding for this successful venture.

Mrs. Langley graduated from Langston University with a degree in Business Administration. Throughout her career, she maintained her membership American Association of Petroleum Landmen, Tulsa Association of Petroleum Landmen and Oklahoma City Association of Petroleum Landmen. As a member of the AAPL, Debra served 2 terms on the Board of Directors and achieved her Certification as a Petroleum Landman in 1992. Mrs. Langley continued to acquire all credits necessary to maintain that certification throughout her career. In 1999, Debra was elected the first “woman” president of the Tulsa Association of Petroleum Landmen and has served in numerous other roles such as Secretary and Treasurer along with chairing various committees. In 2017, Mrs. Langley received TAPL’s Lifetime Achievement Award, also the first woman recipient for this honor.

Debra is very committed to her family and her community. She is actively involved in Rotary having served on the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Sand Springs for multiple terms. Mrs. Langley is a long-time member of St. Matthew’s Episcopal Church and has served on the vestry in many capacities.

Mrs. Langley is widely known and well respected in our industry as an exemplary Landman who made a great difference in the oil and gas industry. To receive AAPL’s Pioneer Award would be well deserved.

