

To say that Jessica Laramie is an exceptional program director who is highly respected and admired among AAPL's accredited programs would be an understatement. If it were not for Dr. Laramie, I would not be where I am today in my career path or education. I joined the Energy Management Program at Western Colorado University with the help of Dr. Laramie, and it was the best decision I have made. While being in the program, I have witnessed Dr. Laramie's continuous dedication to her students and the success of our program at Western. It is because of Dr. Laramie's determination and hard work that our program has grown to be as successful as it is today. Dr. Laramie has put in an extensive amount of time and effort to ensure our program continues to grow and is able to offer students travel, networking, professional development, internship, job, and volunteering opportunities. It is because of these experiences that our students remain at a 100% placement rate and an increase of enrollment in the program each year. By looking at the student's success and happiness in their education and job experiences, you can clearly see that the hard work of Dr. Laramie pays off each day.

When it comes to being an Active Member in the AAPL, Dr. Laramie stands out once again. Not only is Dr. Laramie an Active Member herself in the AAPL, but she is an advocate for encouraging students to join and actively participate in the AAPL as well. Along with this, our program travels to and gets involved in many AAPL events, due in large part to the relationships that Dr. Laramie has built through the AAPL. These connections help boost our program and it is because of Dr. Laramie that the students are offered so many chances for networking and meeting with industry professionals.

The AAPL Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice explain the many qualities and values that make up the objective of the AAPL. Dr. Laramie not only meets all of these expectations, but exceeds them greatly. These values are carried out through her professionalism, teaching style, and connection to her students. I am so grateful to have Dr. Laramie as a director, professor, and mentor. With her help, I have been able to take advantage of the many opportunities offered to our program. I have experienced internship opportunities, energy related volunteer projects, and many networking events to meet business and industry professionals. Western Colorado University is a smaller school than most, but we stand out because of the diligence that goes into our program. This is because of Dr. Laramie and the standards and ethics that she carries out each and every day.

In my three years at Western so far, I have seen Dr. Laramie tackle challenges and opportunities to benefit students' education across the energy spectrum. Our program has evolved to include all energy sources and provide the broader campus chances to learn about the industry in general. Last May, a group of students were accepted on a trip to Peru to install solar panels in a local community in the Andes. Not only were students given the experience of traveling out of the country, but we got to learn about solar power first hand and how to install an electrical system connecting the solar panels to light bulbs. This was such an incredible journey that was philanthropic and educational. This opportunity came from a very complex and lengthy process that Dr. Laramie preserved through to give students the chance to attend. It is obvious that her first and foremost priority is the success and benefit of her students.

Dr. Laramie is the best example of an outstanding director and person. She never expects praise for her dedication and hard work, but she truly has made such a positive impact on Western's Energy Management Program and the students at Western. Dr. Laramie inspires students each day through her compassion, persistence, and tenacity. If anyone deserves to be

awarded “AAPL Accredited Program Director of the Year Award”, it is most definitely Dr. Jessica Laramie.

-Abby Gridley
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