



January 2, 2023

Dear American Association of Petroleum Landmen Award Selection Committee,

I am excited to endorse Dr. Stuart MacDonald for the Program Director of the Year for AAPL-accredited university degree programs. His efforts to establish, enhance, and grow the University of Texas Permian Basin Bachelor of Business Administration degree with a major in Energy Land Management are notable. To say that we (that is, UTPB) could not have done this without Dr. MacDonald's efforts would be a great understatement.

The development of the degree program took a concerted focus, resulting in a program that is both AAPL-accredited and AACSB-accredited. AACSB is the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the premier accrediting agency for business programs. Dr. MacDonald contributed to the retention of our AACSB accreditation through his research output in energy business and energy law topics. In addition, he provided important course-level results used in assessing student learning for accreditation review.

In 2021-2022, the first year of its operations, the BBA in Energy Land Management graduated 5 students. This result is amazing for a four-year degree program! The work of Dr. MacDonald in mentoring and guiding these students to graduation was impressive. With the help of Dr. MacDonald, our graduates had a 100% placement in roles with land departments, all in the Permian Basin. Several placements originated with internships that Stuart helped the students obtain.

His emphasis on student success being tied to the success of operators in the Permian Basin reveals critical insight to his motivations. The choice to make sure our students have solid business training along with their land legal training has resulted in a program with graduates that help their firms complete profitable deals.

As co-advisor for the Collegiate Permian Basin Landmen's Association, he has encouraged the student organization to stay active with professionals. The students have participated in two of the Permian Basin Landman Association Clay Shoot fundraisers, for example. Several industry representatives have spoken with our students in class or campus events.

In addition, he worked with students in creating research projects that were presented at the Permian Basin Water in Energy Conference in Spring 2022. Two students presented a poster with information on title issues related to beneficial use of produced water, a topic of great interest for the industry.

With this, I would like to close my remarks about Dr. Stuart MacDonald by mentioning the importance of the outreach he does with industry leaders in the Permian Basin and his tireless efforts with the AAPL Accreditation Committee and the Scholarship Committees of AAPL and PBLA. His work has resulted in the Permian Basin having a degree program in which we can all take great pride.

Sincerely,

Steven L. Beach, PhD, CIPM
Dean
Professor of Finance

Dear AAPL Award Selection Committee,

Dr. Stuart MacDonald deserves the AAPL Director of the Year award for everything he has done to get the UTPB Energy Land Management program up and running as well as being AAPL Accredited. Dr. MacDonald was tasked with setting up the curriculum and making sure that it was up to the standards the AAPL requires. His decades of experience as a practicing Oil and Gas Attorney have helped bring a level of legitimacy to the newly accredited program. The University's prime location in the middle of the nation's most active basin make it a great place for a landman program and MacDonald has been instrumental in making that a reality. Alongside Dr. Steven Beach, the Dean of the Business Department, and Katharine Harrell, an attorney as well, Dr. MacDonald has been able to get the program up to a great start and it will hopefully continue to grow.

Personally Dr. MacDonald has greatly contributed to the success I have experienced in the early stages of my career with the great amount of knowledge he imparted both in the classroom and after class. I used to stick around after class often to pick Dr. MacDonald's brain about different topics within land and the energy industry. Many times, the questions would be about things that were talked about during the lecture as well as other things I might be wondering about. He was always more than willing to talk about different topics within the industry and was happy to impart his wisdom from decades in the industry. Dr. MacDonald takes an interest in his student's success within his classes as well as professionally upon their graduation. He has stayed in touch with me and other fellow students after graduation to see how our job search was going and if there was anything he could do to help. I personally did not know how much I had learned until I interned at a local operator in the Permian Basin, I came to realize that Dr. MacDonald had prepared me very well for a real-world job. I am currently working for a publicly traded operator where I work with many alumni of other AAPL accredited programs and feel like I learned more in my time at UTPB with Dr. MacDonald than a lot of my coworkers who went to larger institutions. The time Dr. MacDonald takes to impart wisdom on his students as well as the effort he put in to make UTPB an accredited program is why I believe he deserves this award.

Thank you,

Raul Mendoza, RL

- UTPB BBA Energy Land Management Class of 2022
- UTPB Energy Land Management Association President 2021-2022
- AAPL # 00208308
- Raul_Mendoza@eogresources.com
- 432-250-7583

Dear AAPL Award Selection Committee,

I'd like to take this opportunity to recommend Dr. Stuart MacDonald for the AAPL program director of the year. I first met Dr. MacDonald in December of 2020 when I was a field contract landman and wanting to advance my career. The UTPB Energy Land Management program started off, for myself, as a convenience to get the degree I needed to advance my career while staying local to continue my work. Once immersed in the program, I realized my decision to stay local under the tutelage of Dr. MacDonald gave me benefits aside from just the ability to maintain my work. The Permian Basin is the heart of America's oil & gas industry. To have the opportunity to further my education in the heart of the industry my career sits in allowed me the opportunity to meet local industry leaders.

In addition to being the director of the energy program at UTPB, Dr. MacDonald was my instructor in the oil & gas law classes I took. Dr. MacDonald's experience as an oil & gas attorney proved very beneficial to my learning. Alongside his personal experience in the energy industry, he assembled a team around him of educators that have real industry experience that can show students how the lessons learned in class translate to real-world situations looming in their future career.

As I sit here today typing this letter of recommendation at my desk at Occidental Petroleum as a contract surface landman, I owe a great deal of appreciation to the efforts and passion Dr. MacDonald, and his staff, placed into the Energy Land Management program at UTPB. The program he instilled at UTPB has propelled me forward within my career a great deal. Through the knowledge and relationships I accumulated in his program, I look forward to what the future has in store for me as a professional landman.

Thank you,

Justin Bone

- UTPB BBA Energy Land Management Class of 2021
- PBLA Clay Shoot Director 2023
- AAPL # 00191060
- justin_bone@oxy.com

(512)922-9005

David Gutierrez
Energy Land Management Student, UTPB
4901 E University Blvd
Odessa, TX, 79762

January 9th, 2023

Dear AAPL Committee,

Dr. Stuart MacDonald and I first spoke in the Summer of 2022 after I had completed my first college degree. I was made aware of the Energy Land Management program offered by my local university and decided to send in an inquiry to learn more about it. Dr. MacDonald called me the very next day and listened to me while I told him about my current life situation and why going back to school would not be very ideal. Dr. MacDonald listened to me and he immediately made a game plan for me to be able to complete the Energy Land Management program in one school year.

Not only is Dr. MacDonald the director of the program but he also teaches a handful of classes that include Law and Finance and he is the counselor for the students enrolled in the program. He drives in from 4 hours out of town every week during the semester to teach his courses and direct the program. Our program is small, but having a director who is so hands-on lets us know how important this program is to him and that he wants to see his students succeed. I believe Dr. MacDonald is one of a kind and deserves to be recognized for his hard work and dedication to the great program we are building at UTPB.

Regards,

David Gutierrez
(432) 853-0419



January 4, 2023

Dear AAPL Award Committee,

I would like to recommend Dr. Stuart MacDonald for AAPL's director of the year award, as he has been instrumental in beginning the Energy Land Management Program at University of Texas Permian Basin.

When I first met Dr. MacDonald, he was very passionate about the program he was starting. He is someone who has worn many hats in the oil and gas industry over the years. He has done everything from throwing chain on a rig, checking tanks to earn money during law school, to arguing in court and before the Corporation Commission in Oklahoma. It is these humble roots in the oil and gas industry that not only make him knowledgeable, but also very relatable to our students. It made perfect sense to him that our students, who are from the Permian Basin, have access to this program and the job opportunities that are right here at home for them.

Dr. MacDonald is keen to make sure that our curriculum prepares our students for going to work after graduation. By listening to industry feedback, he continues to hone our curriculum so that we not only meet the standards set by AAPL, but also meet the expectations of people who will be the ones potentially hiring our students after they graduate.

One only has to watch Stuart working with students on research projects to tell he really enjoys his job and finds it rewarding. His enthusiasm for the energy industry is unmatched. He will speak to students about current industry issues, but then encourages them to question and use their reasoning skills. You can tell he is pleased when a student reasons through a problem for themselves. As he often tells them, "you don't have to always be right, but you do have to have a well-reasoned opinion."

Dr. MacDonald works to ensure that our students have facetime with people in the industry and knows that this access is incredibly valuable to their future careers. He does this through helping students attend educational seminars, and keeping students active in local industry organizations. He emphasizes to students that personal relationships are important in our industry

In closing, I believe that Dr. MacDonald's tireless efforts have not only been crucial to the development of UTPB's Energy Land Management Program and subsequent accreditation, but also his driving influence will guarantee the program continues to grow and be successful in the future.

Sincerely,

Katharine Harrell, JD
Lecturer, University of Texas Permian Basin