**President’s Award**

A proud Denver, Colorado native, our President Award recipient embodies a dynamic blend of professional excellence, leadership, and zest for life. Growing up in Denver, he was a true jack-of-all-trades, excelling in basketball, football, and soccer while serving on the student council at Eagle Crest High School. His passion for leadership continued at the University of Denver, where he studied Finance and Real Estate and served as the 2003 Student Body President.

After graduation, he launched his career in corporate real estate in Phoenix, Arizona, before transitioning into the oil and gas sector. Over nearly two decades, he has made his mark across key U.S. basins, including the DJ Basin, Delaware Basin, and Bakken. His tenure includes nearly a decade at PDC Energy, where he structured innovative agreements, closed complex transactions, and collaborated across multidisciplinary teams to deliver exceptional results. Known for his expertise in contract negotiation, and title diligence, he has also demonstrated a knack for strengthening professional relationships and fostering cross-functional collaboration.

Today, he serves as a Land Representative on Chevron’s Business Development Land Team in Denver, where he drives impactful initiatives such as enabling long-lateral drilling, facilitating acquisitions and divestitures, and creating opportunities for immediate and long-term cash flow. He is also a dedicated member of the DAPL joining in 2013, he was a recipient of the President’s Award in 2016, and has served on the DAPL as a Director in 2021/22 and 2022/23 and as the VP in 2022/23, further cementing his commitment to the industry and his peers.

Beyond his professional achievements, his passion for life shines through in his hobbies and community involvement. You might find him riding his bike through Wash Park, improving his golf game, sweating it out in a group fitness class, or unwinding at his cabin in Grand Lake.

With a blend of professional expertise, personal passion, and leadership, he continues to significantly impact the oil and gas business while embracing the joy and balance of an active, fulfilling life.

It is with great honor to award Jake Bakker the DAPL President’s Award for 2024. You indeed are a shinning star, Jake, and we are so lucky to call you a coworker, a peer, and a friend.