Stefanie is the Program Director and Teaching Assistant Professor in Energy Land Management at West Virginia University. The areas of the program that Stefanie teaches focuses on ethics and negotiations, strategic planning, non-technical issues, titles and heirships, and professional experience. Stefanie earned her Juris Doctor from West Virginia University College of Law and has previously worked as an in-house landman. Stefanie is significantly impacting the future of our profession and I’m not sure that many of our members are aware of her distinct contribution. She has lead her team at West Virginia University to fulfill her vision of a summer program that introduces land careers to inner-city youth. The industry has been concerned for some time about lack of knowledge about energy and fewer and fewer young graduates entering the profession. Stefanie had the foresight to solve both problems at once by creating E3 camp held during the summer at WVU.

E3 stands for Energy, Environment, and Excitement. It is a seven day, six night fully immersive camp that provides an opportunity for underrepresented middle school aged minority students to study energy management curriculum at WVU. The program is completely free for participants and their families. E3 gives students a chance to learn about energy development and to be exposed to how landwork fits in the energy industry. Without this program, these students would have no exposure to careers in the energy. During the inaugural year of the WVU E3 Camp, there were 17 attendees from MD, PA, and WV areas. During the second year, the program had 24 attendees from MD, PA, and WV areas with a 90% return rate from the first year.

Our Land Profession faces many future challenges including recruiting more diverse professionals, winning the hearts and minds of the general public about the continued use of all energy sources, and recruiting more young people so we can eventually retire. I would like AAPL to recognize Stefanie for taking on all three of those challenges with her E3 summer camp. It is a true innovation and I believe that our organization needs to highlight her creative solution. Innovative programs like this can truly help our profession continue to adapt. I hope the awards committee will consider Stefanie for a Pioneer award.

For additional information about her program as well as testimonials from the students, please visit their website at <https://e3camp.wvu.edu/home>