

Western Kentucky University Team Wins Imperial Barrel Competition

WKU team tops a field of 11 eastern universities to win the Eastern Section of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists Imperial Barrel Award.

Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, March 18, 2017. (ES-AAPG) – **Western Kentucky University** confidently grabbed the top spot among the eleven teams participating in the Eastern Section AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Competition (IBA). The top placing WKU Hill-Topper team consists of Mike Arthur, Shelby Bowden, Jesse Boling, Matthew Bentley, and Matt Boudreaux and their Faculty Advisor Royhan Gani. WKU will now compete in the final round of the IBA in Houston, Texas, held in conjunction with the Annual Convention and Exhibition of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists. In this final round they will go up against winners from the five US Sections and six International Regions. The WKU team takes home the 1st place medal, a cash donation to their department, and an all-expense paid trip to the AAPG meeting.

The Eastern Section also recognized the second-place team from **Western Michigan University** and the third-place team from the **University of Kentucky**. 2nd and 3rd place teams proudly went home with medals and a cash donation to their respective departments.

Eleven university teams from across the Section participated in the high stakes competition: Ball State Univ., Kent State Univ., Southern Illinois Univ., Univ. of Georgia, Univ. of Kentucky, Univ. of South Carolina, Univ. of Wisconsin, Univ. of Tennessee, West Virginia Univ., Western Kentucky Univ., and Western Michigan Univ. Although only the top three placing teams receive medals and cash awards, those who make it to the end each earn Honorable Mention Certificates, a notable accomplishment and worthy of recognition.

The presentations are the culmination of 8 weeks of analysis and interpretation that ultimately lead up to a formal prospect presentation to a panel of energy professionals. The Judges for the competition this year were Pat Imbrogno, GEO-COM LLC, Bob Trevail, Orion Geological Services LLC, and Buddy Wylie, Cabot Oil & Gas.

The competition cannot be conducted without the generous support of sponsors: Cabot Oil & Gas, Billman Geologic Consultants, Inc., Pittsburgh Association of Petroleum Geologists, Eastern Section of the AAPG, Appalachian Geological Society, Geological Society of Kentucky, Geophysical Society of Pittsburgh, Illinois Geological Society and the Pittsburgh Geological Society.

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