On behalf of the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award Committee,

We would like to welcome you to the AAPG Imperial Barrel Award (IBA) program. The IBA is a great opportunity for students and faculty to work with real industry data. As you move through the processes of the program, you will find countless opportunities to network and gain technical skills for your future endeavors. Below are some tips for success:

- Read the Rules and Operating Procedures (R&OP) on the Resources tab and adhere to them. Don't lose points for something that could have been avoided.
- A sustainability component was added in the 2022 program and will continue. Learn how to incorporate sustainability into your project at the United Nations website.
- If you have data / software problems, contact your IBA Coordinator as soon as possible.
- Seek out and set up technical training for students within the AAPG (please check the IBA website for Training).
- Establish contact with mentors early (See Section 4: CONSULTANTS AS MENTORS, of the R&OP) If you requested support finding one mentor and you haven't been assigned one, please contact your IBA Coordinator.
- Timing is everything. Set strategic deadlines.
- Teamwork is the most valuable skill you will take with you from the IBA program.
- Provided datasets are proprietary, teams are forbidden to share outside of the IBA program (See Section. 5: DATASETS of the R&OP)
- Datasets are regional. Scale; variable quality, surface and/or subsurface data as is a common and acceptably normal aspect of exploration (See Section 5: DATASETS, of the R&OP)
- Do not obtain or use any outside data within the Assessment Area (delineated by the red box on the dataset map). One caveat – geotechnical publications in the public domain that deal with the regional setting of the area of the dataset are permissible. You will lose 10 points at the Region Semifinal and Global Final competitions if outside data is used. Any team using additional data from within the assessment area in the Semifinal competitions will not be allowed to participate in the Global Final competition. It is the responsibility of the coordinators to monitor this at the Semifinal competitions. (See Section 6: PROJECT DATA ANALYSIS, of the R&OP).
- Schools ARE allowed to acquire and use additional data from OUTSIDE the assessment area in their interpretation. (See Section 6: PROJECT DATA ANALYSIS of the R&OP).
- If metric units are used in presentations, the equivalent in U.S. units should be presented in brackets. (See Section 6: PROJECT DATA ANALYSIS of the R&OP).

We wish you success in this program and hope to meet you at the events, which will be conducted online. Please don't hesitate to contact your IBA coordinators with any questions.

AAPG IBA Committee