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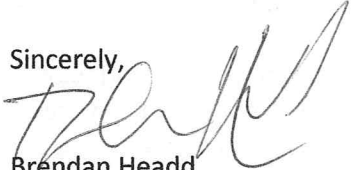
Dear AAPG Foundation Board of Trustees,

I would like to thank you for awarding me the Edward B. Picou, Jr. Named Grant. I am honored to be selected for this prestigious grant and I am especially thankful to the AAPG Foundation and Mr. Picou for the financial contributions that make this grant possible. The support of the AAPG Foundation is crucial to many graduate students, like myself, who desire to make a meaningful scientific contribution despite not having established ourselves in our respective fields of study. This generous grant will enable me to conduct my dissertation research on quantifying the metabolic efficiency of microbial genes found in nature. The results from my project will enable bioengineers to design metabolically versatile microbes to remove Hydrogen Sulfide from sour reservoirs and will form the foundation for my future career in bioengineering where I hope to design microorganisms to solve problems in the petroleum industry. However, the limited funds available through my advisor to conduct this research, coupled with the expensive molecular techniques and assays required to complete my research require outside funding in order for me to successfully complete my dissertation work. Without the financial support of the AAPG Foundation I would not be able to complete my project as proposed.

I take great pride in being awarded the grant named for Mr. Picou, who has selflessly served our country and Louisiana State University, in addition to possessing an extensive and distinguished career in the petroleum industry. While I do not claim to be of an equally high caliber as Mr. Picou, I found this grant especially fitting. I joined the United States Army out of high school and am especially appreciative to those like Mr. Picou who have served our country overseas. I began my collegiate education in the biological sciences, however it was a Paleontology class my senior year that so peaked my interest that I changed fields to Geology. While my original focus was stromatolites, micropaleontology and biostratigraphy formed the foundation of my geological education and this knowledge has continued to serve me well.

I am honored to be awarded this grant and will ensure the funds are spent in a manner respectful of the AAPG Foundation and Mr. Picou. I would like to thank you again and I look forward to completing my dissertation project and presenting the results of this research at a future AAPG meeting.

Sincerely,


Brendan Headd