



# CEGA

Canadian Energy Geoscience Association

Michelle Johnston earned her B.S. in Biology with a minor in Environmental Science from Bellarmine University in 2011, and her M.Sc. in Geological Sciences with a focus in coal/organic petrology from the University of Kentucky in 2013. While in Graduate School, she was an Antoniette Lierman Medlin Award recipient in 2012 from the Geological Society of America Coal Geology Division for her work in petrographic assessments of Eastern Kentucky coals. During this time, Michelle was also a visiting organic petrography student at the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, assisting with organic matter characterization for efficient coal utilization in association with Dr. Nikki Wagner. Immediately following graduation, Michelle worked as an organic petrographer for the Center of Applied Energy Research, as well as co-project contributor and organic petrographer for Morehead State University's EPSCoR-funded project examining microbial diversity in Cenozoic lignite coals for the Department of Physics, Earth Science and Space Systems Engineering. She joined ConocoPhillips, LTD. in 2014 as a geologist working as an organic petrography specialist conducting organic matter characterization, thermal maturity analyses, and organic petrography-geochemistry integration for unconventional source systems for seven years and is now a coal geologist at the U.S. Department of Interior Geological Survey within the Central Energy Resources Science Center, Energy Resources Program (ERP).