1. **Division Name:** Women and Planning Division

2. **Division Contact Person:** Corrin Wendell, AICP, Chair

3. **Award Category:** Division Education Excellence

4. **Name of Division project, program, or process being nominated:**
   Women & Planning: The Next Generation, featuring the “Girls Who Plan” Program

5. **Description of the project, program or process, including the targeted audience.**
   This nomination is for the recognition of the advancement of the “Girls Who Plan” program - a collaboration between the Women & Planning Division and YEP! Youth Engagement Planning non-profit organization, to offer a program and member volunteer service opportunity focused on an equity initiative to introduce urban planning to girls grades K-12 to expand and strengthen the presence and leadership of women within our profession. This initiative strives to close the gap for women entering the planning field and gives young female students an opportunity to learn about and consider urban planning as a profession.

6. **Identify how the project, program or process:**
   a. **Meets the award criteria:**
      
      1. **Outstanding scholastic and educational content of the effort**
      
      In 2018, the Women & Planning Division began a partnership with YEP! Youth Engagement Planning to inspire future difference makers - the next generation of women planners. YEP! is a non-profit organization focused on teaching young people in grades K-12 about urban planning and civic engagement, and creating opportunities for youth to have meaningful participation in advocating for change in their communities and the built environment. With the launch of the “Girls Who Plan” program, the Division co-sponsored two youth engagement events; one at an elementary school and the other at a Boys & Girls Club that focused on a planning curriculum targeted for youth in grades 4 through 6th. Division members gave an overview of Urban Planning History, What Do City Planners Do?, Key Planning Vocabulary, Key Planning Icons, Map Exercises, Imagine Your City Activity, We Are All Connected Activity, and a Planning Word Search. Each student was invited to learn more about what planning is, how it affects them in their community, and how they too can plan to make a difference!

      2. **Measurable impact in reaching target audience — number of members or professionals reached through educational effort**
      
      Through this amazing partnership, the Division was able to offer, for the first-time ever, volunteer opportunities (CM credit approved) to members who participated in the program. Within the two youth engagement events, we had ten incredible Division members who participated and over 100 students that were reached through this educational effort.

      3. **Originality of educational effort**
      
      The Women & Planning Division, through our immense growth of both Executive Committee members (from 4 to 8!) and Division members (over 2100 members strong!), is now finding the capacity to offer very unique programming to its members that enhances the visibility of not
only the Division itself, but APA as a whole. “Girls Who Plan” is an inaugural program, the first of its kind, that the Division is proud to highlight and continue moving forward. The Division has always focused on making strides to bridge the gender gap in our field, and through this initiative, it provides an amazing, unique, volunteer opportunity to our members that can occur all over the country; through student organizations, other divisions, chapter organizations, firms, agencies, or individual planners. Our partnership with YEP! gives the Division the ability to expand this educational effort and offer a customizable curriculum to youth in grades K-12 while reaching young people of all diverse backgrounds to introduce the planning profession and path to success early on.

4. **Topical relevancy of educational effort**

We as women are the leaders we have been waiting for, and it is critical that leaders look like the communities we are serving. Within our AICP Code of Ethics, there is a very important component to the work that we do: “We shall educate the public about planning issues and their relevance to our everyday lives. We shall increase the opportunities for members of underrepresented groups to become professional planners and help them advance in the profession.” The Division believes that women bring a unique perspective to the planning profession and through the “Girls Who Plan” program, we are able to further the advancement of equity within our profession by reaching back and teaching our next generation of girls of all backgrounds about how to be a leader in planning!

b. **Can measure success**

“Girls Who Plan” is a program that has been wildly successful, not only in the interest we have had from our members who participate, but also in our educational partners (schools and Boys & Girls Clubs). As a Division, we measure success by not only the quantity of our program offerings to our members, but in the quality. This one-of-a-kind opportunity to our members not only gives them a chance to teach the next generation of women planners, but to also be actively engaged in creating meaningful change in the life of a young girl! As a planner with almost 15 years professional planning experience, I do not think I even had a female planning role model until I was in graduate school, so this type of interaction with our members alongside these young ladies at their age, is absolutely groundbreaking! Going forward, we will measure success by the number of “Girls Who Plan” events that take place, how many of our members participate, and how many young people we get the privilege of teaching!

c. **Is transferable to other Divisions**

Youth Engagement Planning is about educating young people about all aspects of planning, inspiring them to shape the future of their communities, and involving youth in the planning process. The “Girls Who Plan” program can easily be integrated into all of the other Divisions along with their specialty to have focused discussions for girls interested in Transportation Planning, Economic Development, City Planning, etc and across all APA Chapters. This type of program can be provided nationwide and can be replicated within any K-12 classroom.