



**AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES  
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION**  
Novi, Michigan • September 4-6, 2019  
*Presented by SPE Automotive Division and SPE Composites Division*

**COMPOSITES: Forming the Future  
of Transportation Worldwide**  
**SEPT 4-6, 2019**



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**FIRST KEYNOTE ANNOUNCED FOR SPE® ACCE 2019 –  
“DRIVING AUTOMOTIVE MATERIALS FORWARD”**

**Dr. Cynthia Flanigan – Chief Engineer, Vehicle Research & Technology, Ford Motor Co.**

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** - The executive planning committee for the SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) is announcing the first keynote speaker for their 19<sup>th</sup> annual event September 4 – 6, 2019 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit suburbs. Dr. Cynthia Flanigan, Chief Engineer, Vehicle Research & Technology at Ford Motor Company, will present “Driving Automotive Materials Forward”. The presentation will outline how the growth of the automotive industry, current policy frameworks and R & D efforts encourage the use of cost-effective, lightweight, sustainable and advanced materials for automotive applications. Pioneering developments of sustainable and advanced materials by Ford scientists including nanocomposites, aerogels, natural fiber reinforced composites, polymeric and soft materials made from renewable feed stocks, 3-D printed plastic parts, bio-inspired and patterned functional materials as well as plastic parts made from recycled carbon dioxide will be featured. “Composites technology innovations are driving advancements in automotive lightweighting and sustainability,” said Flanigan. “Research and development with industry partners will accelerate continuous improvement as the industry moves forward,” added Flanigan.

In addition to daily keynote presentations, the three-day ACCE features approximately 80 technical presentations, 2– 3 panel discussions, and over 100 sponsors with approximately 80 exhibiting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for both thermoset and thermoplastic composites in a wide variety of transportation applications. Daily networking breakfasts, lunches and cocktail receptions enhance the value of the event that attracts over 900 attendees worldwide. The Automotive and Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®) jointly produce the ACCE to educate the industry about the benefits of composites in automotive, light and heavy-duty truck, off-highway vehicles and other ground transportation applications.

The technical presentations (30 min. ea.) are organized into the following categories: Advances in Thermoplastic Composites, Advances in Thermoset Composites, Virtual Prototyping, Testing & Modeling, Reinforcement Technologies, Additive Manufacturing & 3D Printing, Nanocomposites, Enabling Technologies, Sustainable Composites, Bonding, Joining & Finishing, Opportunities & Challenges with Carbon Composites and Business Trends & Technology Solutions.

“Composites – Forming the Future of Transportation Worldwide,” is the theme for this year’s event reflecting the growing global interest transportation OEMs have in learning about the latest plastic composites technologies. The 2019 ACCE is co-chaired by Dr. Alper Kiziltas, technical expert, Ford Motor Company and SPE Automotive Div. vice-chair & education committee chair and Matthew E. Carroll, materials engineering, General Motors Company and former SPE Automotive Div. chair. The technical program is co-chaired by Dr. David Jack, associate professor, Mechanical Engineering at Baylor University and Dr. Leonardo Simon, professor, Chemical Engineering at Waterloo University.

For more information see [www.speautomotive.com/acce](http://www.speautomotive.com/acce)- For more information on the *Society of Plastics Engineers*, see [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org).

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**TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – Dr. Cynthia Flanigan**, Chief Engineer, Chief Engineer, Vehicle

Research & Technology at Ford Motor Company will present a keynote titled “Driving Automotive

Materials Forward,” at this year’s SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE)

September 4 – 6, 2019 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit suburbs.

Dr. Cynthia Flanigan leads a global team of researchers to develop products over a broad technical portfolio including additive manufacturing for design, materials and processing methods, advanced interiors, exteriors and safety features, architectural design and chassis systems, novel materials, manufacturing technologies, and analytical tool development. During her 18 years with the company, Cynthia has led research projects in a variety of polymer-based applications, including tires, composites and polyurethane foams. Her technical work on developing biomaterials such as soy based polyurethane foam, led to implementation on seating for all Ford vehicles built within North America.

Cynthia has received several key awards such as the R&D100, the SAE International Environmental Excellence in Transportation Award, the Henry Ford Award and several SPE Automotive awards. Dr. Flanigan has been awarded 7 U.S. patents and 2 international patents for bio-product and elastomers discoveries, has published over 35 external publications, and co-authored two book chapters. In 2015, she was an invited council member for the LAUNCH program, sponsored by U.S. Department of State, NASA, USAID and Nike, and has recently served as the Chair for the Industrial Advisory Board of CenTire, Tire Research Center located at Virginia Tech. Cynthia is currently a Board Member for Society of Plastics Engineers, Automotive Division and received recognition as one of the 2017 Automotive News’ Rising Stars in the Automotive Industry. Cynthia received Materials Science and Engineering degrees from M.I.T. (B.S.) in Cambridge, Massachusetts and Northwestern University (Ph.D.) in Evanston, Illinois.