



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5 FEBRUARY 2018**

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**SPE® ACCE 2018 – AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPO ANNOUNCES  
CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ACCE & REHKOPF SCHOLARSHIPS DUE APRIL 1, 2018**

**TROY (DETROIT), MICH.** - The organizing committee for the SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) invites graduate, undergraduate, and community college students to submit applications for three SPE ACCE scholarships and an additional award from the endowed scholarship funded in honor of the late Dr. Jackie Rehkopf, a long-time SPE ACCE volunteer and automotive composites expert. Applications are due April 1, 2018 and winners will be announced prior to the 2018 SPE ACCE event, September 5- 7, 2018 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan (in the Metro-Detroit area).

The three ACCE scholarships are \$2,000 USD each. Two of the scholarships (given annually since 2017) are for full-time graduate students, anywhere in the world, who are pursuing degrees in Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics or a related Engineering discipline. A third ACCE scholarship is available for a graduate or junior or senior undergraduate student pursuing similar academic programs at a university or college in the U.S. state of Michigan. In addition to a letter of recommendation from an advisor or mentor (and other SPE foundation requirements), students must

provide a succinct 2-page essay explaining how their planned work will benefit polymer composites usage in the automotive or other ground-transportation industry. Winning students are required to submit a formal paper on their research by June the following year and are expected to present their results in person at the next year's SPE ACCE conference, September 4 – 6, 2019.

The Dr. Jackie Rehkopf endowed scholarship (\$5,000 USD) will be awarded to undergraduate or graduate students studying engineering or science with plans to work in the field of transportation composites. If there are no qualified graduate applicants, two \$2,500 USD awards may be awarded to suitable undergraduate applicants. As with the ACCE scholarships, a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor/mentor (in addition to other SPE Foundation requirements) and a 2-page essay is required showing planned work and how it benefits composites usage in the automotive or other ground-transportation industry. Work supported by the scholarship must be formally presented at an SPE technical conference like the ACCE or published in an SPE technical journal.

Applications for ACCE, Rehkopf, and many other SPE scholarships are on the SPE Foundation website at <http://www.4spe.org/Foundation>. Deadline for submission is April 1, 2018.

For more information on the ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships, contact:

- Dr. Ian Swentek, Hexion, 519.562.9158, [ian.swentek@hexion.com](mailto:ian.swentek@hexion.com)
- Dr. David Jack, Baylor University, 254.710.3347, [David\\_Jack@baylor.edu](mailto:David_Jack@baylor.edu)

## About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 900 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion, education and networking about advances in transportation composites. Its global appeal is evident in the diversity of exhibitors, speakers, and attendees who come to the conference from Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and Asia/Pacific as well as North America. About one-third of attendees work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus or aviation OEMs and another 25% represent tier suppliers. Attendees also work for composite materials processing equipment, additives, or reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultancies, university and government labs; media; and investment banks. The show has been jointly produced by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001.

**The mission of SPE** is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. SPE's Automotive Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments in the global transportation industry. SPE's Composites Division does the same with a focus on plastic-based composites in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more information see [www.speautomotive.com](http://www.speautomotive.com) and [www.specomposites.org](http://www.specomposites.org). For more information on the *Society of Plastics Engineers*, see [www.4spe.org](http://www.4spe.org).

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## How to Apply for SPE ACCE & Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships

Applicants must complete an application and submit it to The SPE Foundation by **April 1, 2018**. The application submitted must include:

1. A completed application form.
2. Two recommendation letters: One from a teacher or school official and one from an employer or non-relative. The Extrusion Division/Lew Erwin, ACCE and Jackie Rehkopf Scholarship applications require that one recommendation letter must be from the Faculty Advisor associated with the Senior, MS, or Ph.D. project.
3. A high school and / or college transcript for the past two years. If you are unable to attach the transcripts to the application, they can be emailed to [foundation@4spe.org](mailto:foundation@4spe.org) or mailed to the address that can be found at the end of the application.
4. A list of current and past school activities and community activities and honors.
5. A listing of your employment history, starting with your most recent job where your involvement was in plastics / polymers. Describe that activity.
6. All applicants are eligible for Foundation General Scholarships, and must submit a one or two page essay telling why you are applying for the scholarship, your qualifications, and your educational and career goals in the plastics industry. Additional essays may be required for individual scholarships.
7. Fields marked with a red "\*" are required and cannot be left blank.
8. The preferred format for attached documents is PDF, but DOC and DOCX formats are also acceptable.

Complete details on Foundation General Scholarships are available from The SPE Foundation. Call **+1 203.740.5457** or email [foundation@4spe.org](mailto:foundation@4spe.org)

ACCE (Automotive & Composites Divisions)

Two for full time grad students anywhere, one grad or undergrad (Jr. or Sr.) attending school in Michigan. Students must be in good standing and pursuing a degree in Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics or a related Engineering discipline. A 2-page essay is required showing planned work and how it will benefit composites in an automotive or other ground transportation application. One of the letters of recommendation must come from the student's advisor or mentor. Scholarship recipients are required to present their research project at the next ACCE conference.

Dr. Jackie Rehkopf (Automotive & Composites Divisions)

Full time grad students. If no grad students qualify then 2 \$2,500 scholarships may be awarded to undergrad students (Jr. or Sr.). Preference will be given to female students but the best candidates will be selected. Focus should be on research activities targeted to ground transportation composite technology. Students must be in good academic standing and pursuing a degree in Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics or a related Engineering discipline. A 2-page essay is required showing planned work and how it will benefit composites in an automotive or other ground transportation application. One of the letters of recommendation must come from the student's advisor or mentor. Scholarship recipients are required to present work at an [SPE technical conference](#) and/or have it published in an [SPE technical journal](#).



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Two of the four 2017 ACCE scholarship award winners are shown above. From left to right, students shown with Rani Richardson, chair, 2017 SPE ACCE, and director, CATIA Technical Sales, Dassault Systèmes are: (Left Photo) Benjamin Blandford, from Baylor University and (Right Photo) Christopher Hershey, from Michigan State University. The 2017 ACCE scholarships were sponsored by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Applications for ACCE, Rehkopf, and many other SPE scholarships are on the SPE Foundation website at <http://www.4spe.org/Foundation>. Deadline for submission is April 1, 2018. For more information on the ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships, contact:

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