



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 5 FEBRUARY 2018

Media Contact: Teri Chouinard, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair, 248.701.8003, teri@intuitgroup.com

**SPE® ACCE 2018 – AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPO ANNOUNCES
CALL FOR ABSTRACTS FOR SPE® ACCE STUDENT POSTER SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION
ABSTRACTS DUE JUNE 30, 2018**

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. - The organizing committee for the SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) invites graduate, undergraduate, community college, and high school students to submit abstracts on innovative composites technologies, for automotive and ground transportation, for its tenth annual student poster scholarship competition. The competition will be held during the ACCE at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan (in the Detroit suburbs) September 5-7, 2018. Judges who are industry experts, SPE board members, and members of the media will review all posters with student authors on the first day of the conference, September 5, 2018. First-, second-, and third-place awards will be presented to winners in graduate, undergraduate and high school categories during a special ceremony after lunch on the event's second day, September 6, 2018.

Students interested in participating in the scholarship competition should contact Dr. Uday Vaidya, ACCE student poster competition chair as well as chief technology officer, Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) and professor and governor's chair – Advanced Composites Manufacturing at University of Tennessee-Knoxville via ACCEposters@speautomotive.com.

Abstracts are due by June 30th, 2018. Digital copies of posters are due by August 20, 2018 for pre-review by judges. Students will need to bring printed copies of their posters to the conference, which they can attend free of charge. All students in the competition will also receive a partial travel stipend and a shared hotel room provided by SPE, as well as free student membership in SPE. Large multi-poster panels and push pins for displaying the posters in the Student Poster Display area will be provided. The show also provides excellent networking opportunities for those close to graduating who are starting to look for a job.

The poster template is online via <http://speautomotive.com/acce-forms>.

Poster topics may include subjects such as:

- Automotive Composites
- Composites and lightweight materials for trucks
- Bio-composites
- Nanocomposites
- Glass, carbon, and hybrid fibers
- Thermoset and thermoplastic technologies
- Recycling and green technologies
- Multi-materials
- Joining technologies
- Modeling and analysis of lightweight materials
- CAFÉ standards and mandates
- Cost-effective manufacturing
- Use of advanced materials in innovative applications
- Virtual prototyping and design
- Microstructure, failure and fracture
- Failure envelopes and theories
- Additive manufacturing of composite

Students and their posters are ranked according to the following criteria:

- Content (student and poster demonstrate clarity of topic, objectives, and background);
- Motivation for research and technical relevance to conference theme;
- Methodology and approach to problem;
- Quality of proposed research results/findings;
- Conclusions are supported by information presented;
- Presentation (display aesthetics are pleasing and there is a logical flow between sections);
- Knowledgeable (presenter has a good grasp of the subject);
- Understandability (poster is effective even without student being present to explain it); and
- Overall rank vs. other posters and presenters.

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. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more information see

www.speautomotive.com. For more information on the *Society of Plastics Engineers*, see www.4spe.org.

For more information on the ACCE Student Poster Competition, contact:

- Dr. Uday Vaidya, University of Tennessee-Knoxville, 205.410.2898, uvaidya@utk.edu
- Dr. David Jack, Baylor University, 254.710.3347, David_Jack@baylor.edu
- Dr. Douglas Gardner, University of Maine, 201.581.2846, douglasg@maine.edu

Please include in the Subject Line – **2018 SPE ACCE Student Poster Competition**

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Three of the 2017 poster competition winners are shown above. The first photo on the left shows Zhaogui Wang, from Baylor University, accepting his plaque for the first-place PhD student category from JP Wiese, marketing manager, Asahi Kasei Plastics, the 2017 student poster competition sponsor. The photo in the middle shows Siegfried Werner, from the University of Wisconsin Madison, receiving his plaque for first-place in the MSc student category. The photo on the right shows Ian Major, from University of Guelph, accepting his award for first-place in the undergraduate category.