



# AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Novi, Michigan • September 4-6, 2019

Presented by SPE Automotive Division and SPE Composites Division

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**Media Contact: Teri Chouinard, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair, 248.701.8003, [teri@intuitgroup.com](mailto:teri@intuitgroup.com)**

## **SPE® ACCE 2019 – AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPO ANNOUNCES CALL FOR PAPERS, PART COMPETITION NOMINATIONS & SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

**Troy, (DETROIT) MICH.** – The SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) team is announcing its call for papers, part competition nominations, and scholarship applications for their 19<sup>th</sup> annual event September 4 - 6, 2019 at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit suburbs. “Composites – Forming the Future of Transportation Worldwide,” is the theme for this year’s event reflecting the growing interest automotive, heavy truck, and other transportation OEMs have in learning about the latest plastic composites technologies. The ACCE features technical sessions, panel discussions, keynotes, and exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for both thermoset and thermoplastic composites in a wide variety of transportation applications. Networking breakfasts, lunches, and 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 transportation applications.

The 2019 ACCE will be co-chaired by 2018 ACCE co-chairs Dr. Alper Kiziltas, lead research scientist, Ford Motor Company, SPE Automotive Div. vice-chair & education committee chair and Matthew E. Carroll, materials engineering, General Motors Company and former SPE Automotive Div. chair. “The 2018 ACCE was the best one ever with over 1,000 attendees, close to 100 papers, increased student participation with an expanded Poster Competition, the addition of the *Composites Quiz Event*, *PlastiVan® Program*, and broadcasting key presentations live to colleges and universities,” said Kiziltas. “We are continuously improving the ACCE, to provide our sponsors with added value, and the 2019 event will be even better,” added Kiziltas. “Our engineering teams benefit tremendously from the lightweighting technologies presented at the ACCE,” said Carroll. “Composites technology is important to our company and the industry as we innovate to reduce mass, meet emissions and fuel-economy standards, and improve styling,” added Carroll.

**The 2019 ACCE technical program** will include 80 – 100 papers/presentations on industry advances (30 min. each) organized into the following categories: Thermoplastic Composites; Thermoset Composites; Virtual Prototyping & Testing; Reinforcement Technologies; Additive Manufacturing & 3D Printing; Nanocomposites; Enabling Technologies; Sustainable Composites; Bonding, Joining & Finishing; Carbon Composites; Fast Processing/High Performance Composites; and Business Trends/Technology Solutions. Paper abstracts are due April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and final papers or non-commercial presentations are due June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Authors who submit full papers (not presentations) in the proper format will be considered for the conference's Best Paper Awards, which are presented during the event's opening ceremony. A template for papers can be downloaded from the SPE ACCE website online via <http://speautomotive.com/acce-forms>. Abstracts can be submitted online via <http://SubmitACCEpapers.com>.

The technical program will be co-chaired by 2018 co-chairs Dr. David Jack, associate professor, Mechanical Engineering at Baylor University and Dr. Leonardo Simon, professor, Chemical Engineering at Waterloo University. "The education our students gain from ACCE greatly contributes to their success," said Jack. "The scholarship opportunities available from ACCE greatly help our students and the industry benefits from their innovative research," noted Simon.

**The innovative composite part competition** is open to all ACCE attendees. Parts may be OEM or aftermarket on a vehicle available for sale anywhere in the world or a development/prototype demonstrating a significant advancement in composites technology. Production parts and/or prototype parts can be for passenger cars, light trucks, heavy trucks, busses, race cars, concept vehicles, autonomous vehicles, or any unique ground transportation application. Parts must be available for display at the conference and will be judged by a group of industry experts from the SPE ACCE organizing committee. Up to five awards will be presented. ACCE judges will determine four of the winners, including a winner in Materials Innovation and Process Innovation in the Production part and Prototype part categories. An additional prize, the People's Choice award, will be selected by vote from conference attendees. Companies interested in showcasing their products and/or services and nominating an innovative composite part for the competition should contact Teri Chouinard at [teri@intuitgroup.com](mailto:teri@intuitgroup.com) and go to [www.speautomotive.com/acce-conference](http://www.speautomotive.com/acce-conference) for more info and a nomination form. Nominations are due June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**The ACCE Scholarship Awards** are open to graduate, undergraduate, and community college students, anywhere in the world, pursuing degrees in: Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics, or a related Engineering discipline. Last year's program included four \$2,000 USD awards (\$8,000 USD total) sponsored by the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). One of the \$2,000 USD awards was targeted for a student attending a college or university in the state of Michigan. This year's program will likely follow the same format. In addition to a letter of recommendation from an advisor or mentor (and other SPE foundation requirements), students must provide a succinct two-page essay explaining how their planned work or research will benefit polymer composites usage in the automotive or other ground-transportation industries. Winning students of the 2019 scholarship awards are required to present their research results in person at the next year's SPE ACCE conference planned for Sept. 9-11, 2020.

**The Dr. Jackie Rehkopf endowed scholarship** includes up to \$5,000 USD for a full-time graduate student 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 or mentor (in addition to other SPE foundation requirements) and a two-page essay is required showing planned work and how it benefits composites usage in the 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 both scholarships are due April 1, 2019. Students interested in submitting applications should visit [foundation@4spe.org](mailto:foundation@4spe.org) or call 203.740.5457.

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. The SPE Composites Division is dedicated to the growth of composites in multiple industries. Topic areas for both divisions include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development.

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