

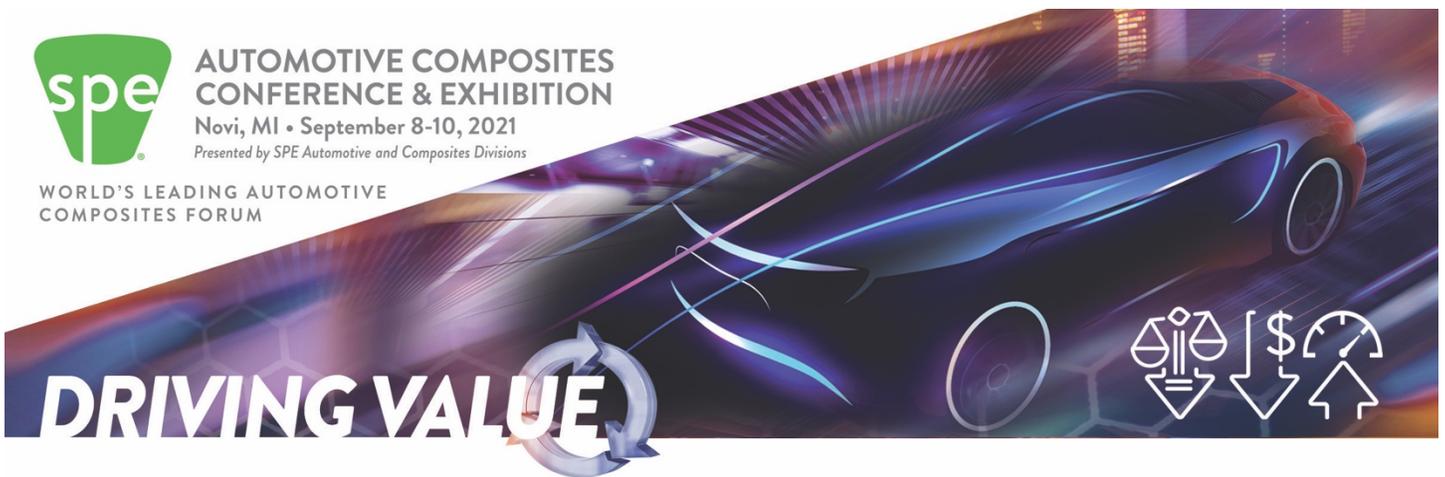


AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Novi, MI • September 8-10, 2021

Presented by SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions

WORLD'S LEADING AUTOMOTIVE
COMPOSITES FORUM



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 17 MARCH 2021

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

SPE® ACCE 2021 – AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPO ANNOUNCES

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ACCE & REHKOPF SCHOLARSHIPS DUE MAY 1, 2021

- **ONE OF THE 2021 ACCE SCHOLARSHIPS WILL BE NAMED IN HONOR OF THE LATE NIPPANI RAO, A LONG-TIME SPE ACCE VOLUNTEER AND MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE SPE AUTOMOTIVE AND COMPOSITES DIVISIONS**

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. - The organizing committee for the SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Expo (ACCE) invites graduate and undergraduate 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 May 1, 2021 and winners will be announced prior to the 2021 SPE ACCE event, September 8 - 10, 2021 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 2007) are for full-time graduate students who are pursuing degrees in Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics or a related Engineering discipline. This year, one of these scholarships will be named in honor of the late Nippani Rao, a long time SPE ACCE volunteer and member of the Board of Directors for the Automotive and Composites Divisions. A third ACCE scholarship is available for a graduate or junior or senior undergraduate student pursuing similar academic programs. 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 will benefit polymer composites usage in an automotive or other ground-transportation application. Scholarship recipients are required to present their research project at the next ACCE conference.

The Dr. Jackie Rehkopf endowed scholarship (\$5,000 USD) is for full-time graduate students, with preference given to female students, but the best candidate will be selected. If no graduate students qualify, then two \$2,500 USD scholarships may be awarded to undergraduate students with junior or senior standing. Focus should be on research activities targeted at 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 two-page essay is required showing planned work and how it will benefit composites in the automotive or other ground transportation application. One letter of recommendation must come from the student's advisor or mentor. Scholarship recipients are required to present their research project at an SPE technical conference and/or have it published in an SPE technical journal.

Partial travel stipends, hotel accommodations and free conference registrations will be provided to assist with travel expenses.

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 May 1, 2021. For more information on the ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships, contact:

- Dr. David Jack, Baylor University, 254.710.3347, David_Jack@baylor.edu

About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 800 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 20% 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 investors. 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 <https://speautomotive.com/> and <http://specomposites.org/>. For more information on the *Society of Plastics Engineers*, see www.4spe.org.

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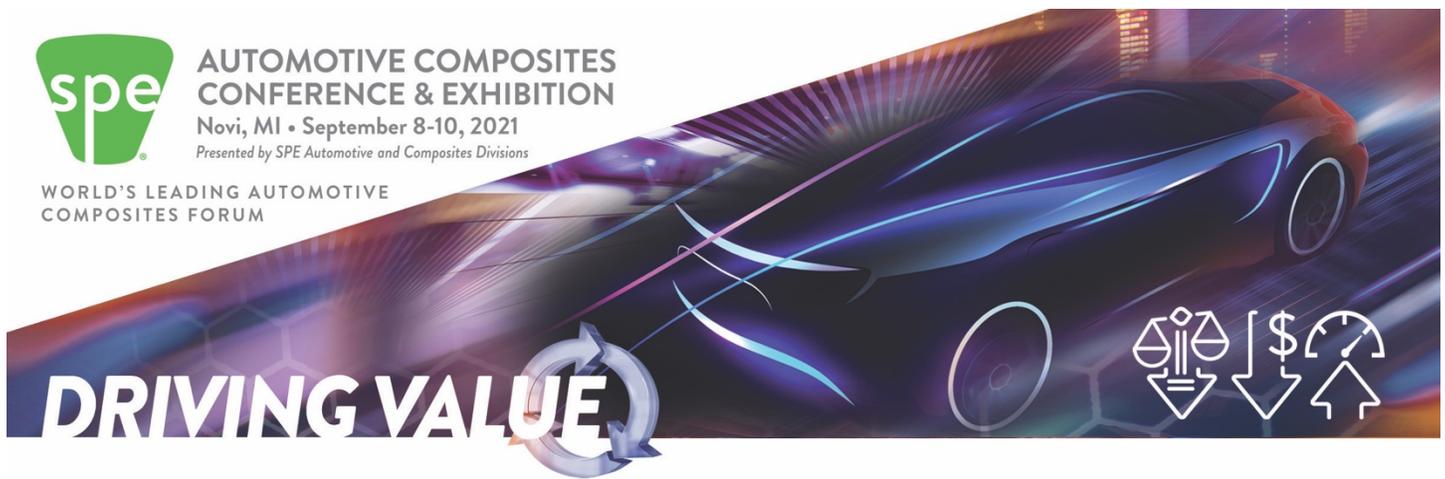


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How to Apply for SPE ACCE & Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships

Applicants must complete an online application and submit it to The SPE Foundation by **May 1, 2021**. The application link can be found at www.4spe.org/scholarships. All completed applications must include:

1. A completed student profile and application.
2. Three recommendation letters: two from teachers or school officials and one from an employer or someone who knows you well. Scholarship applications require that one recommendation letter must be from the Faculty Advisor associated with the Senior, MS, or PhD project.
3. A high school and / or college transcript for the past two years.
4. A completed resume that includes employment history, school activities, community activities, honors and special recognitions. Be especially mindful of activities, research or jobs related to plastics or polymers.
5. All applicants are eligible for Foundation General Scholarships and must submit a 250 - 1,000 word essay that explains why you are applying for a scholarship, your qualifications, and how your study of plastics will contribute to your immediate and/or long-range career goals in the plastics industry.
6. Student membership in SPE is **free** and you must be a member to apply for a scholarship. If you are not a member, you can join at 4spe.org/join.

Complete details on Foundation General Scholarships are available from The SPE Foundation and online at 4spe.org/scholarships. Call **+1 203.740.5427** or email foundation@4spe.org.



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Shown above are the winners of the 2020 ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf scholarships. The ACCE scholars, from left to right, include: Sai Aditya Pradeep, PhD Candidate, Materials and Manufacturing, Automotive Engineering Department, Clemson University; Alessandro Perego, PhD Candidate, Polymer Engineering, University of Akron; and Nathaniel Blackman, PhD Candidate, Mechanical Engineering, Baylor University. All three received an award of \$2,000 USD each. The Dr. Jackie Rehkopf scholars, from left to right, include: Jiaqi Yan, PhD Candidate, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, North Carolina State University and Wencai Li, PhD Candidate, Mechanical & Industrial Engineering, Louisiana State University. An award of \$5,000 USD was split between the two recipients. 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 May 1, 2021. For more information on the ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships, contact:

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