



**AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES
CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION**
Novi, MI • September 7-9, 2022
Presented by SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions

COMPOSITES ⚡ THE KEY TO EV

WORLD'S LEADING AUTOMOTIVE
COMPOSITES FORUM



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

SPE® ACCE 2022 – AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE & EXPO ANNOUNCES CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ACCE & REHKOPF SCHOLARSHIPS DUE APRIL 1, 2022

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 April 1, 2022 and winners will be announced prior to the 2022 SPE ACCE event, September 7 - 9, 2022 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. 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. 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 April 1, 2022. 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 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 <https://speautomotive.com/> and <http://specomposites.org/>. For more information on the *Society of Plastics Engineers*, see www.4spe.org.

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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 **April 1, 2022**. 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.

2021 ACCE SCHOLAR:

2021 DR. JACKIE REHKOPF SCHOLARS:



Jomin Thomas



Lauren Slann Sara Andrea Simon

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7 APRIL 2022

Media Contact (high resolution photos): Teri Chouinard, SPE Auto. Div. Comm. Chair, 248.701.8003, teri@intuitgroup.com

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Shown above are the winners of the 2021 ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf scholarships. The 2021 ACCE Scholarship was named in honor of the late Nippani Rao – a long time ACCE supporter/volunteer and member of the SPE Automotive and Composites Div. Board of Directors. The winner of the SPE ACCE scholarship (\$2,000 USD), named in honor of Nippani Rao, was Jomin Thomas, a PhD candidate pursuing a doctoral degree in Polymer Engineering at The University of Akron. The two winners selected for the Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarship (\$2,500 USD each) were Lauren Slann, a graduate student pursuing a Master of Science degree in Automotive Engineering at Clemson University and Sara Andrea Simon, a PhD candidate pursuing a doctoral degree at the Polymer Engineering Center (PEC) at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Deadline for submission is April 1, 2022. Applications for ACCE, Rehkopf, and many other SPE scholarships are on the SPE Foundation website at <http://www.4spe.org/Foundation>. For more info on the ACCE and Dr. Jackie Rehkopf Scholarships, contact: Dr. David Jack, Baylor University, 254.710.3347, David_Jack@baylor.edu.