



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 24 March 2026

Media Contact: Teri Chouinard, SPE ACCE MarCom Chair, 248.701.8003, [intuitgroup@gmail.com](mailto:intuitgroup@gmail.com)

**SPE® ACCE 2026 – Automotive Composites Conference & Expo Announces A Call For Abstracts For SPE® ACCE Student Poster Competition - Abstracts Due June 28, 2026**

**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 annual student poster competition.

The competition will be held during the 26th Annual ACCE at the Vibe Credit Union Showplace in Novi, Michigan Sept. 9 - 10, 2026. Judges including industry experts, SPE board members, and members of the media will review all posters with student authors during the conference. Students entering the poster competition will also give a 5-minute mini-talk podium presentation on their poster topic in a special technical session.

First, second, and third place awards will be presented to winners in graduate, undergraduate and high school categories during a special ceremony at the 26th Annual ACCE. The 2026 conference theme is “Composites: Advancing Mobility”.

Poster titles and abstracts are due by June 28, 2026. Digital copies of posters are due by August 26, 2026 for pre-review by judges. Abstracts and Digital Copies of the posters need to be submitted online via the ACCE Speaker Portal: [LINK TO ACCE PAPER PORTAL](#).

The ACCE Speaker Portal is also accessible via the: SUBMIT 2026 PAPERS, PRESENTATIONS AND POSTERS HERE button on <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>.

Questions should be sent to [Douglas\\_E\\_Smith@baylor.edu](mailto:Douglas_E_Smith@baylor.edu).

Students will need to bring 24” x 36” printed copies of their posters to the conference. Large multi poster panels and push pins for displaying the posters in the Student Poster Display area will be provided. All students presenting a poster in the competition will receive free registration to the conference, and a shared hotel room provided by SPE ACCE. Students who submit abstracts and posters early, will be provided with accommodations at the Hyatt Place hotel onsite at ACCE. The ACCE provides students with excellent networking opportunities especially ideal for those close to graduating who are starting to look for a job. The poster template is on the SPE ACCE website “2026 ACCE POSTER COMPETITION TEMPLATE” <https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>.

**Poster topics may include, but are not limited to, subjects such as:**

- Automotive Composites
- Sustainability
- AI (Artificial Intelligence)
- 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
- Applications of Composites in Electric Vehicles
- Modeling and analysis of lightweight materials
- CAFE 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 composites
- Air Mobility

**Students and their posters are ranked using 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.

The 2025 ACCE Student Poster Competition first place winners Tymon Nieduzak, Columbia University for his poster “Multifunctional Composites – Self-Health Monitoring Technology Smart Electric Vehicle Battery Enclosure” in the Graduate category; and Jocelyn Hess, University of Tennessee, Knoxville for her poster “Exploring Effects of Additives on the Thermal Stability and Processability of Polypropylene for Use in Paper-Fiber Polypropylene Composites with Automotive Applications” in the High School / Undergraduate category.

**Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE** currently draws 450 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, Asia/Pacific and South America, 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.

<https://speautomotive.com/acce-conference/>

**The mission of SPE:** 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 info see <https://speautomotive.com/>, <https://composites.4spe.org/> and <https://4spe.org/>.

For more information on the ACCE Student Poster Competition, contact: • Dr. Douglas E. Smith, Baylor University, 254.710.6830, [Douglass E. Smith@baylor.edu](mailto:Douglass_E_Smith@baylor.edu)

High Resolution Photos from the ACCE are available via:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/speautomotive/albums/>