

SPE® Automotive Composites Conference Scholarships

The Automotive & Composites Divisions of the Society of Plastics Engineers International (SPE) have collaborated since 2001 to organize and host the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exposition**. The conference has become the *world's leading automotive composites forum* and draws speakers, attendees, sponsors, exhibitors, and media from around the world to discuss the latest advances in automotive composites materials, reinforcements, processing methods, enabling technologies, virtual prototyping, bonding / joining, secondary finishing, and, of course, applications.

In 2006, the Divisions approved a set-aside from the conference's proceeds to fund several scholarships for graduate students attending an approved college or university anywhere in the world and doing graduate research that has potential impact on the automotive composites industry. Students interested in applying for these scholarships should fill out the application form on the next page and should also submit a 2-page description of the work they plan to do and how that research will help advance the use of composites in automotive or other ground-transportation applications. Also required is a letter of recommendation by the student's academic advisor / mentor. The student's research need not focus specifically on an automotive application if a strong-enough case is made that the research ultimately has application in the automotive industry. **Deadline for submitting an application is June 30, 2009.**



Currently there are **2 scholarships of \$2,000 USD each will be awarded** to 2 students. All applicants should have demonstrated or expressed an interest in the polymer composites field based on course load and/or research projects. They should be preparing for a career in the plastics or composites industries and with an interest in automotive applications, such as: plastics engineering, composites engineering, polymer science, chemistry, physics, chemical engineering, mechanical engineering, aerospace engineering, automotive engineering, or industrial engineering. All applicants must be in good standing with their colleges or universities at the time they apply for the scholarships. In case of a tie, financial need may become a consideration in the selection process.

SPE will select the winning students in July during peer review meetings on the conference's technical program. Both students and faculty advisors will be notified by fax, e-mail, or phone on or before August 1, 2009. The awards will be announced to media just before the conference, although the checks will be available early August in time for Fall Semester. Students or their advisors may also pick up the checks at the SPE Automotive Composites Conference, which this year falls September 15-17, 2009 in Troy (Detroit), Michigan, USA.

A final research summary report on the results of the student's research is due back to conference organizers by June 30, 2010 and the scholarship recipients (or a student or faculty member from their school) are expected to attend the 2010 ACCE conference (*date to be determined*) to present their findings.

Application Criteria

1. Applicants must be full-time graduate students currently enrolled in a graduate program at an accredited college or university who have demonstrated interest in the plastics /composites industry by academic major, extra classes, and research work. Applicants must also be in good academic standing with their school at the time they apply.
2. Applicants must be engaged in a Master's or Doctoral thesis or other research that involves the use of composites (or composite reinforcements or additives, or composite processes or finishing, or composite prototyping, or design of composite applications). The work must have some applicability to the automotive or ground-transportation industries. The stronger the link made between the research and the use of composites in the automotive industry, the greater the chance of winning a scholarship.
3. Financial need of applicants may be a consideration in selecting recipients of the scholarships in the event of a close tie.
4. Applicants should submit the application form (next page), a 2-page description of their research project and how it impacts the field of automotive composites, a *curriculum vitae* (CV) of their background, and a letter of recommendation from the faculty advisor / mentor who will oversee the research.
5. Students should plan to submit a research report to the committee by June 30, 2010 and to attend the 2010 ACCE conference (mid-September) to present their findings to conference attendees.

