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**MICHIGAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT CORP. SPONSORS 2013 SPE®
AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIPS**

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the **SPE® Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (SPE ACCE)** announced today that the [Michigan Economic Development Corp.](http://www.michigan.gov/medc) (MEDC, Lansing, Mich.) will sponsor two historic SPE ACCE graduate scholarships (given annually since 2007), as well as one new scholarship for an undergraduate or graduate student enrolled in a Michigan educational program. The MEDC's support covers two \$2,000 USD ACCE scholarships for graduate-level research in polymer composites that has impact on ground transportation, as well as one new \$2,000 USD scholarship for a junior or senior undergraduate or graduate student pursuing a degree in polymer science, plastics, composites, or a related engineering curriculum in a Michigan college or university. Applications for all three scholarships are due **July 20, 2013** and forms can be found at <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm>; winners will be selected from a pool of qualified applicants and announced in early August 2013 before this year's SPE ACCE show.

“As the lead agency for economic development for the State of Michigan,” says Amy Cell, MEDC’s senior vice president for Talent Enhancement, “the MEDC is committed to ensuring that industry has the pipeline of talent it will need for the future. SPE’s Automotive Composites Conference and Exhibition is an event that focuses on both the current and future needs of one of Michigan’s most important industries. Every dollar that we invest in these engineering scholarships is an investment in Michigan's success in the future.”

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About the MEDC

Pure Michigan is a brand on the rise, representing business, talent, and tourism initiatives across Michigan. These efforts are driven by the Michigan Economic Development Corp. (MEDC), which serves as the state's marketing arm and lead agency for business growth, jobs, and opportunity with a focus on helping grow Michigan's economy. For more on the MEDC and its initiatives, visit: <http://www.michiganadvantage.org/>. For Michigan travel news, updates, and information, visit <http://www.michigan.org/>.

About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition draws over 700 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion and networking about advances in the 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. Fully one-third of attendees indicate they work for automotive and light truck, agriculture, truck & bus, heavy truck, or aviation OEMs, and another 25% for tier suppliers. Attendees also represent composite materials, processing equipment, additives, and reinforcement suppliers; trade associations, consultants, university and government labs; media; and investment bankers. The show has been jointly sponsored by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001. This year's show will be held **September 11-13, 2013**. For more information about the SPE ACCE, see <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm>, or <http://compositeshelp.com>, or call +1.248.244.8993, or write SPE, 1800 Crooks Road, Suite A, Troy, MI 48084, USA.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics. SPE's Automotive and Composites Divisions work to advance plastics and plastic-based composites technologies worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about these advances. Both divisions are dedicated to educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments for all phases of plastics and plastic-based composite developments, including materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design and testing, and application development. For more information on the Society of Plastics Engineers or other SPE events, see www.4spe.org, or call +1.203.775.0471.

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