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SPE[®] ISSUES CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR ACCE, REHKOPF SCHOLARSHIPS THROUGH SPE FOUNDATION DUE MAY 1, 2016

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The ***SPE[®] Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition (SPE ACCE)*** organizing committee has issued its annual call for applications for three SPE ACCE scholarships and two awards from a new endowed scholarship still in the process of being funded in honor of the late Dr. Jackie Rekhopf, a long-time SPE ACCE volunteer and automotive composites expert. Applications are due **May 1, 2016** and winners will be announced prior to the 2016 SPE ACCE show, **September 7-9, 2016** in the Detroit suburbs.

Each of the three ACCE scholarships is in the amount of \$2,000 USD. Two of the scholarships (given annually since 2007) are for full-time graduate students anywhere in the world 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 at a university or college in the U.S. state of Michigan. In addition to a letter of recommendation from an advisor or mentor (and other SPE Foundation requirements), students must provide a succinct 2-page essay explaining how their planned work will benefit polymer composites usage in the automotive or other ground-transportation industry. Winning students are required to submit a formal paper on their research by June the following year and are expected to present their results in person at next year's SPE ACCE conference, **September 6-8, 2017**.

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In just five months, the new Dr. Jackie Rehkopf scholarship is approximately half-way to its \$100,000 USD goal to reach full endowment. Contributions from the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions, which have co-organized the ACCE show since 2001 and provided seed money to start the scholarship, will allow two scholarships to be given in 2016. The scholarships are available to either full-time graduate or junior or senior undergraduate students anywhere in the world pursuing degrees in Polymer Science, Composites, Plastics or a related Engineering discipline, with preference given to female students (although the best candidates will be selected). Up to two \$5,000 USD scholarships each will be awarded to qualified graduate students, or up to two \$2,500 USD scholarships each will be awarded to qualified undergraduate students if no graduate applications are received, or a combination of one \$5,000 graduate award and one \$2,500 undergraduate award for the 2016-2017 academic year will be provided. As with the ACCE scholarships, a letter of recommendation from the student's advisor/mentor (in addition to other SPE Foundation requirements) and a 2-page essay is required showing planned work and how it benefits composites usage in the automotive or other ground-transportation industry. Work supported by the scholarship must be formally presented at an SPE technical conference like the ACCE or published in an SPE technical journal.

Applications for ACCE, Rehkopf, and many other SPE scholarships for the 2016-2017 academic year may be found on the SPE Foundation® website at <http://www.4spe.org/Foundation>. Deadline for submission is **May 1, 2016**.

About the SPE ACCE

Held annually in suburban Detroit, the ACCE draws over 1,000 speakers, exhibitors, sponsors, and attendees and provides an environment dedicated solely to discussion 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. Fully one-third of attendees indicate they 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 sponsored by the SPE Automotive and Composites Divisions since 2001. For more information, see <http://speautomotive.com/comp.htm> or <http://specomposites.com>.

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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, see www.4spe.org.

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The three 2015-2016 ACCE scholarship award winners are shown above. From left to right, students receiving checks from Russell Broome, managing director, SPE International (shown on the right side of each photo) are: Christopher Boise from Baylor University (Waco, Texas, U.S.A.), Márton Kardos from The University of Applied Sciences Hof (Upper Franconia, Bavaria, Germany), and Nicholas T. Kamar from Michigan State University (East Lansing, Mich., U.S.A.). All three students will present results of their research at the 2016 SPE ACCE.

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