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ABSTRACTS FOR EIGHTH SPE[®] AUTOMOTIVE COMPOSITES CONFERENCE STUDENT POSTER COMPETITION DUE APRIL 15

TROY (DETROIT), MICH. – The organizing committee for the **SPE Automotive Composites Conference & Exhibition** (ACCE) today invited abstract submissions on innovative composites technologies for automotive and ground transportation for its eight-annual *student poster competition* held during the annual conference **September 7-9, 2016**. Judges made up of media, industry experts, and SPE board members will review all posters with student authors on the first day of the conference, September 7, 2016. First-, second-, and third-place awards will be presented to winners in graduate and undergraduate categories during a special ceremony after lunch on the event's second day, September 8, 2016.

Students wishing to participate in the 2016 competition should contact Dr. Uday Vaidya, ACCE student poster competition chair as well as chief technology officer, Institute for Advanced Composites Manufacturing Innovation (IACMI) and professor and governor's chair-Advanced Composites Manufacturing at University of Tennessee-Knoxville at ACCEposters@speautomotive.com. Abstracts are due by **April 15, 2016** and digital copies of posters are due by **August 20, 2016** for pre-review by judges. Students will need to bring printed copies of their posters to the conference, which they can attend at no fee.

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Students and their posters will be ranked according to 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;
- Conclusion 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.

Since 2008, the SPE ACCE poster competition has been organized annually by Vaidya. He is supported by Dr. David Jack, professor, School of Engineering & Computer Science, Baylor University.

In 2015, the winning students in the Graduate category were Shatori Meadows from Tuskegee University (first place), Ermias Gebrekidan Koricho and David DR from Michigan State University (second place), and Christopher Boise from Baylor University (third place), who also is an SPE ACCE graduate scholarship award winner for 2015-2016. In the Undergraduate category, winning students included Ronald Koslakiewicz from University of Michigan-Dearborn (first place), Michael Biancaniello from University of Guelph (second place), and Josh Caudhill from Michigan State University (third place).

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. This year's show will be held **September 7-9, 2016** in Novi, Mich. in the Detroit suburbs. 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 on the Society of Plastics Engineers or other SPE events, see www.4spe.org.

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Two of the 2015 poster competition winners are shown above. On the left-most photo, Shatori Meadows from Tuskegee University accepts her plaque for the First Place Graduate Student category from Patrick (Pat) Szaroletta (right), president, Faurecia Automotive Exteriors North America, the 2015 student poster competition sponsor. On the right most photo, Ermias Gebrekidan Koricho from Michigan State University (left) receives his plaque for the Second Place Graduate Student category from Szaroletta.

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