The SPE Foundation supports the development of plastics professionals by funding quality educational programs, grants and scholarships.
LETTER FROM ROGER KIPP, SPE FOUNDATION CHAIR

Greetings,

The SPE Foundation has completed another exciting year. With continuing industry support, a fantastic SPE staff, and the dedication of our Board, the Foundation has expanded our outreach through student scholarships, global grants, and expansion of the PlastiVan® Program. The Foundation supports an alliance of manufacturing with plastics education creating a true opportunity for growth, progress and sustainability for our industry.

This year your support has resulted in $43,000 in technical education program grants and 50 scholarships managed by the Foundation totaling $113,250. With Foundation leadership and the support of our many sponsors we continue to expand the potential of the PlastiVan® Program. Besides introductory plastics education to improve the perception of plastics the new PlastiVan Sustainability Curriculum teaches students exactly how to recycle in their community and what measures industry is taking to solve global end-of-life issues with plastics. In the upcoming school year PlastiVan® will again touch over 26,000 students.

Our impact wouldn’t be possible without a focus on the future by SPE Chapters and industry sponsors. We invite you to review this report and learn more about our work. It’s a privilege for me be part of the Foundation Board and I encourage you to connect personally with me at srkipp@msn.com with questions and suggestions.

Thank you for your trust and generous support.

SPE FOUNDATION BOARD

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LETTER FROM BRIAN LANDES, PH.D., SPE PRESIDENT

It is often said that a picture says a thousand words. As I studied the 2018 SPE Foundation Impact Report, I was struck by the words that its pictures conveyed... wonder, excitement, curiosity, passion, opportunity, dedication, community, partnership and stewardship. Foundation staff, volunteers, teachers, students, businesses and our communities are all inspiring our next generation. The SPE Foundation, through scholarships, grants and PlastiVan®, continues to showcase the exciting opportunities that are available for future generations. Today, the rewards are positive impact on the students and the communities in which they live. Tomorrow, as plastics professionals, they will be inventing, producing, and repurposing new materials that bring benefits to society, the economy, and yes, the environment. Thank you to everyone who invests their time, energy and resources to support the SPE Foundation. It is these efforts that are building the foundation for our industry’s future, and for a better future for our planet!
SPE SCHOLARSHIPS

The SPE Foundation offers numerous scholarships each year to talented undergraduate and graduate students seeking careers in the plastics industry.

“...I'm in my senior year at UMass Lowell studying Plastics Engineering and I work as a lab research assistant. Academic research has given me an appreciation for the impact polymer science has on our lives. SPE has not only served as a reservoir of valuable information for research and academics but also as a platform to build my professional network. I will continue my studies at UMass Lowell working toward a doctorate in Materials Science specializing in bio–materials and medical devices. My sincerest gratitude to SPE for their generous scholarship support.”

SIDDHANT IYER
Harold Giles Composites Division, Polymer Modifier & Additives Division, Thermoplastic Materials & Foams Division Scholar
UMass Lowell senior studying Plastics Engineering
I have been actively involved with SPE at Pittsburg State since my freshman year where our plastics professors told us about the outstanding scholarship opportunities. I cannot thank the SPE Foundation, the Thermoforming Division, and the Polymer Modifiers & Additives Division enough for their very generous awards. SPE supports its future professionals unlike any other, and it reaffirms my decision of pursuing plastics every day.

LEXINGTON PETERSON
Pittsburg State University Senior dual majoring in Plastics Engineering Technology and Polymer Chemistry

“The SPE Thermoforming Division awarded five scholarships valued at a total of $10,000 in 2019. The recipients were particularly impressive, and we see interest growing in our industry. Lexington Peterson is exemplary of this interest. We were impressed with both her extra-curricular activities and part-time work as a lab assistant in the plastics industry. We are confident that Lexington will be a valuable addition to the plastics industry when she embarks on her professional career.”

MATT O’HAGAN
SPE Thermoforming Division, Student Activities Chair

“The SPE Foundation Carl Haas Scholarship has given me the ability to focus more heavily on my plastics education. With less of a financial burden, I can devote more time to my passion of injection molding and rheology.”

ADAM EVERSE
SPE Foundation Carl Haas Scholar
Ferris State University Senior
2019 SPE Student Chapter President
Studying Plastics Engineering Technology

“My sincerest appreciation to the SPE Detroit Section for creating the Irv Poston Scholarship. It has been incredibly validating to have my efforts in this area of my academic and professional development recognized. Your support has further advanced my research towards a career in thermoplastic composites.”

ERIK STITT
Michigan State University, Ph.D. Candidate
Materials Science & Engineering
2019 Irv Poston Scholar
GIVING TUESDAY

Giving Tuesday is an international day of giving and occurs on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving and Black Friday. In 2018 and 2019, the SPE Foundation invited your support for PlastiVan. Both years, your generosity has exceeded our goals and gifted PlastiVan to hundreds more students!

See what your Giving Tuesday support made possible:

2018

$9,315 total raised

1,240+ students impacted

38 donors

2019

$10,509 total raised

1,400+ students impacted

37 donors

#GIVINGTUESDAY
It costs $7.50 per student to bring PlastiVan into a classroom. Gifts large and small help us spread the valuable lesson about the importance of plastics in our world in a fun, educational way. Thank you to everyone who chose to support PlastiVan on Giving Tuesday in our mission to change the perception of plastics one classroom at a time.

The funds donated on Giving Tuesday helped PlastiVan visit Scappoose Middle School in Oregon to pilot the new PlastiVan Sustainability Curriculum. The middle school program highlights marine debris, biopolymers, and mechanical and advanced/chemical recycling. Students are educated about their community’s recycling programs and are trained how to recycle so they can become sustainability ambassadors at home and in school.

A special thanks to the Plastics Industry Association members, whose individual donations totaled a gift of $2,950 to our 2019 Giving Tuesday campaign.

Beaumont Technologies encourages and values education in the plastics industry from today’s youth through practicing professionals. Nice work, SPE and PlastiVan. Keep up the great work.
– John Beaumont/Beaumont Technologies

Plastics are an important part of the solution to mitigating climate change. Educating our youth to the benefits of responsibly using plastics now and in the future is very important.
– Lawrence & Agnes Drzal
PlastiVan is a fun, hands-on educational program that introduces students to plastics science and teaches them the value plastics bring to our world.

Sponsored in part by Braskem

16 STATES VISITED
91 CITIES
169 total visits
121 schools, universities, STEM fairs and corporations visited

24,535 STUDENTS experienced PlastiVan® in 2019
THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS 2019 PLASTIVAN® SPONSORS:

Arburg  
BASF  
Bay Mills Community College  
Bekum America  
Braskem  
Cascade Engineering  
Charter NEX Films  
Chevron Phillips Chemical  
Chicago SPE Educational Foundation  
Davis-Standard, LLC  
Donald Swiat PlastiVan Memorial Fund  
Dri–Air Industries, Inc.  
Fabri–Kal  
Freudenberg Household Products  
Greenville County Schools  
iD Additives  
JM Polymers  
John Deere  
John Grundy PlastiVan Memorial Fund  
LB Systems  
Milwaukee SPE Education Foundation, Inc.  
Plastics Industry Association  
Polymer Alliance Zone  
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SPE Automotive Division  
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SPE Chicago Section  
SPE Cleveland Section  
SPE Color & Appearance Division  
SPE Composites Division  
SPE Detroit Section  
SPE Thermoforming Division  
SPE West Michigan Section  
SPE Vinyl Plastics Division  
Weener Plastics  
Wittman Battenfeld  
XTO Energy, Inc.
The 2018-19 school year was the third consecutive year Chevron Phillips Chemical supported PlastiVan. We were excited that over 2,500 students in 12 schools in communities we call home were inspired and introduced to hands-on STEM learning. At Chevron Phillips Chemical, education and workforce development are the cornerstones for our community involvement commitment. Our support of PlastiVan furthers our commitment as a neighbor of choice and provides students an enriching experience that guides and informs their educational careers.

The SPE Color and Appearance Division generously donated $35,000 to PlastiVan in 2019. Combined with their 2018 gift of $17,500, their support over two years of $52,500 provided a PlastiVan visit to 30 classrooms, bringing the exciting world of plastics to thousands of students. Thank you, Color and Appearance Division, for this meaningful impact toward changing the perception of plastics one classroom at a time. And a big THANK YOU for committing to another $35,000 for 2020!

The kids love the chemistry and hands-on interaction. PlastiVan promotes learning and interest in science but also gives students truthful and educational insights to the benefit of plastics in our daily lives.

– Jon Ratzlaff, Polyethylene Technical Services, Chevron Phillips Chemical in Bartlesville

Loved the presentations! The PlastiVan Educator taught the students about recycling, helped close the loop on the recycling process and really broke down the chemistry of plastic in a way students could relate and understand.

– Wendy Irwin, Community Relations Liaison in Sweeney/Old Ocean Facilities

Our members are excited to support the PlastiVan Program as a vehicle to further the success of the plastics industry. PlastiVan’s unique program reaches elementary, middle and high school students and is the only non-profit educating our youngest next generation of plastics professionals. Support of PlastiVan through the Section and its Educational Foundation is the easiest and most effective outreach in Illinois.

– SPE Chicago Section Board of Directors

THANK YOU, BRASKEM!
Braskem’s annual commitment of $30,000 to be a Sustaining Sponsor supports ongoing program improvements including the new PlastiVan Sustainability Curriculum, professional development and training for PlastiVan educators, classroom materials, and program expansion. Braskem also sponsored five PlastiVan visits in 2019 directly impacting over 700 students.
Steven Ploeger understands the value of giving back to an industry that has served him well. His generosity allowed the SPE Foundation to grant a 3D printer to Carthage Intermediate Center in Carthage, MO. Steven and Greg Nagel, partners at Select Plastics, and their management team work to make their employees’ lives better, as well as enhancing their communities, customers and industry partners lives and businesses. Giving is fundamental for their company.

Steve recently made another generous donation on behalf of the Select Plastics family and its customers which allowed the PlastiVan to visit a school in need of sponsorship. When asked why he supports the work of the SPE Foundation, Steve replied, “To whom much is given, much is expected.”

Receiving this 3D printer has allowed my students to use 3D printing and modeling to be creators. I am so thankful to be able to put this technology in the hands of 6th graders and allow them to begin solving real world challenges with a tangible product. My students are problem solvers who are excited and engaged with their learning. Thank you!

– Heather Woodall, Carthage Intermediate School, MO
YOUR WORK MATTERS

With your support, the SPE Foundation educates, inspires, and fosters our future workforce, carrying forward the important work you do.

24,535 STUDENTS EXPERIENCED PLASTIVAN® IN 2019

$113,250 IN SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO 46 STUDENTS AT 27 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

37 DONORS RAISED $10,509 FOR PLASTIVAN® ON GIVING TUESDAY, SUPPORTING 1,400+ STUDENTS

$38,000+ RAISED FROM MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DONATIONS

$43,653 TOTAL GRANT DOLLARS AWARDED

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING & INSPIRING FUTURE PLASTICS PROFESSIONALS

For more information, contact us at foundation@4spe.org