



# TRENDS & TOPICS

Volume 59 ▲ Number 5

DETROIT SECTION - SOCIETY OF PLASTICS ENGINEERS - "THE CHARTER CHAPTER"

February 2015



10th Annual

## AUTO EPCON

Engineering Plastics In High Gear

May 5, 2015

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DETROIT SECTION AND AUTOMOTIVE DIVISION



### PROGRAM SCOPE:

The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) invites you to attend a 1-day technical conference & exhibition showcasing innovative developments in the design, materials, processing and use of engineering plastics for the global automotive industry.

### WHO SHOULD ATTEND:

This conference is specifically designed to inform, update and educate the OEM and supplier communities about advances in both thermoset and thermoplastic engineering polymers. Learn how these widely used materials can help improve performance and productivity, while reducing cost and mass.

### PRESENTATIONS:

Hear technical presentations on the newest advances in engineering materials related to: design engineering, materials development, lighting, thermal management, processing and enabling technologies, predictive engineering, new applications and more.

### EXHIBITS:

See exhibits from engineering plastic suppliers, compounders, molders, additives and reinforcement suppliers, design and engineering firms and machinery suppliers. Experts will show you how to apply the latest technologies to your next project or program.

Conference includes a full day of technical presentations, plenary and keynote presentations on automotive business trends, lunch and coffee breaks, exhibits of advanced technologies and an evening reception.



### Featured Keynote Speakers

#### *The Role of Plastics in Automotive Interiors*

Rose A. Ryntz, Ph.D., Vice President  
IAC Advanced Development and  
Material Engineering



Plastics have often been used in automotive interiors to provide design freedom and enhance craftsmanship. With the recent push to light weighting plastics are playing a larger role in interior design. Combined with new processing technologies, plastics can afford all of the advantages of low temperature impact resistance, improved haptics, and enhanced recyclability. This talk will focus on the enhanced customer requirements in the automotive interior and discuss some of the new technological advances that will allow the plastics industry to achieve them.

#### *Regulations Driving Market Demand*

Suzanne Cole, CEO  
Miller Cole LLC



Federal regulations are driving profound changes that are underway with propulsion technology, under the hood components and the lightweighting of conventional passenger cars and light duty trucks; as a plethora of new innovative technologies and materials aim to substantially boost fuel economy and reduce mobile greenhouse gas emissions. As we move to the midterm evaluation of MY 2022-2025 standards; technology development and consumer response is being closely scrutinized. This presentation examines the opportunities and challenges confronting the light-duty sector, on going research and research gaps with an eye towards informing the upcoming midterm review and the potential opportunities for plastics in the future of vehicle construction.

[www.speautomotive.com/emc.htm](http://www.speautomotive.com/emc.htm)



# President's Message

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, IAC Group

President

**Communication** – My fellow SPE Detroit Section members, it's about time to talk about communication.

What is communication?

- Talking to each other
- Emailing to friends or colleagues
- Analyzing our retirement account
- Watching a sports event
- Visiting or calling a friend
- Listening to our favorite music

All are forms of communication, but how do we become a better communicator? Generally when we want to learn a new subject we search for a good book on the topic or we sign-up for a class or even attend a seminar. If you do any or all of the above attempts to be a better communicator you will find out **to improve your communication skill, you must be a better listener.**

How do we become a better listener?

I don't remember any specific courses in all my school years that covered better listening. But I do remember my kindergarten and elementary teachers constantly emphasizing "LISTENING". Maybe it's been too long since I sat in elementary school and I forgot listening. Lately I have been seeking ways to improve

my listening and I like to share them with you.

To improve your listening you should:

- Pay attention to what speaker is saying.
- Acknowledge what you just heard by repeating the statement you just heard back to the speaker and ask for speaker confirmation. This is active listening where you engage the speaker.
- Ask less questions and focus on the speaker. Your question may derail the speaker from main topic of discussion.
- Know when to be silent and let the speaker convey their message.

I am emphasizing better communication skills because regardless of our age, heritage, educational, or professional background improving our communication skills will help us in our daily lives.

As your president, I am involved in all aspects of operation of our section. **The one thing that I can point to for improving our section operation is "Communication".**

I intend to do the best of my ability in the next several months of my presidency and continue to improve communication in all aspects of our section operation.

Since we are talking about communication, I think it's a good place to inform you that our student chapters are experiencing a phenomenal growth. I have seen the early reports from our Education Chair Mrs. Sandra McClelland and it is very impressive to see lots of students signing up for the SPE membership. The students are very eager to be involved with the SPE organization. Great work Sandra, keep up the good work.

On a Thursday night several weeks ago I was honored to be invited as a guest speaker at the SPE student chapter at MSU. I can't tell you how excited I was to be there and meeting with these students. I told them about the Detroit section and our activities specially the scholarships. Several of the recent SPE Detroit Scholarship winners were among the audience that night and I was so glad to meet them in person and thanked them for applying for our scholarship and encouraged them to apply for next year. Since I knew I may have a few future SPE leaders as a captive audience, I felt it was the right time to cover a short presentation about leadership. It was well received and I was glad I planned for it. It was a great joy to meet these students. I hope all of you can be engaged with our young SPE members to provide the guidance to make the transition from a student member to a regular member of our society and help them to realize all the great benefits of SPE throughout their entire career. I recently heard over 98% of all SPE student members leave SPE after graduation. They do not sign-up as regular SPE members. This is not a good statistic and all of us need to work hard to change this trend.

I like to report another successful toy donation campaign that was completed in mid-December. Many thanks to the following sponsorship companies; American Plastic Toys, Inc who was our molding, assembly and packaging sponsor. Chevron Phillips who donated the resin for the toys. Maple Press was the label donor. Hollingsworth and Company donated their time and effort to logistics, handling and distribution. Finally, many thanks to the Detroit Police Department members who volunteered their time to deliver over 34,000 toy trucks to kids across S. E. Michigan. Many thanks to all the sponsors, volunteers and our very own Public Interest committee chair Dawn Cooper.



A few of the toy trucks donated in December 2014



Thanking sponsors for their continued support





Boxes of toy trucks and few of Detroit City Police volunteers and our very own Dawn Cooper in red distributing toy trucks.

Our May 2015 Auto EPCON and October 2015 TPO Conference is in great shape and I know the committee members are working very hard to deliver a great program for you. I hope to see many of you and your friends attending these two conferences and don't forget when you see a conference committee member to thank them for their effort. It takes lots of hours, hard work, love, and dedication to SPE to put a great conference together. We must acknowledge this and be grateful for having these hard working SPE members who dedicate many volunteering hours to create a superb educational and professional experience for us.

We have lots of Technical and Social activities planned for the rest of my term and I hope to see many of you in these activities. I know my good friend Mr. Bob Petrach is our next Technical Program chair and he is planning the 2015-2016 TDM activities now. Make sure to drop him a note if you want to be involved in our technical program. He'll be glad to talk to you.

2015 ANTEC and NPE are upon us! The events are scheduled on March 23 – 27 at the Orlando, Florida. I am super excited to tell you that the Detroit Section has won the SPE Communication and Pinnacle Gold award which will be presented to our section during a luncheon ceremony on Sunday March 22. Many of our section executive board members are planning to attend this prestigious award ceremony and bringing these awards home. Thank you to the hard work of many of our directors, committee members, students and SPE member volunteers that made this possible for us. It is the result of their hard work that resulted in qualifying for these awards. Please make sure to congratulate and thank them when you see them.

See you in ANTEC and NPE 2015 and remember:

**"Great Listeners are also great communicators!"**

Let's listen more!

Yours truly,  
Sassan Tarahomi  
President, SPE Detroit Section



# Coming Events

**April 10, 2015**  
**Material Auction**  
**MGM Grand Detroit**  
<http://spematerialauktion.com>

**May 5, 2015**  
**AutoEPCON**  
**Troy Marriott**  
[http://spedetroit.org/?page\\_id=71](http://spedetroit.org/?page_id=71)

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# 2015 Future City Competition Report

January 26, 2015

2015 ESD Michigan Regional Future City Competition was held on Monday, January 26h at the Suburban Collection in Novi, Michigan. 22 middle school teams comprised of sixth, seventh and eighth grade team members were competing for the first prize and a trip to Washington, D.C. for the National Future City Competition and a chance to compete for the grand prize, a trip to U.S. Space Camp located in Huntsville, Alabama. All students were filled with excitement and anticipation, the months of hard work are finally over as they knew one will be chosen for the grand award.

SPE Award – Pete Grelle our immediate past president, Wayne Hertlein our 1st vice president and Sassan Tarahomi our current president volunteered to serve as special judges for “Incorporation of Plastics Material”. Detroit SPE is one of the sponsors of this event.

Regional Future City Competition is a program that inspires 6th, 7th and 8th grade students with subjects such as math, science, engineering and technology. Mentors with technical background coach these students for several months and help them to bring their vision of city of future to reality by building a scale model of the city with all the necessities required for a city to function.

Panel of judges representing SPE quickly reviewed all 22 teams and elected top 3 teams among themselves and then revisited those teams as a group and graded them for the following categories:

- 1) Use of Plastics (0 - 25 points)
  - How are plastics incorporated into the theme and infrastructure of city?
  - Are the uses technically feasible?

- 2) Industries Supporting Plastics (0 – 20 Points)
  - Building and construction
  - Transportation
  - Packaging
  - Consumer goods
- 3) Reuse, Recycle, Reduce (0 – 20 Points)
  - What do you do with the end of life plastics?
- 4) Innovative Uses of Plastics (0 – 25 Points)
  - What unique ways have you incorporated plastics into your city design?
- 5) Presentation (0 – 10 Points)

All schools chosen by special award judges for best incorporation of Plastics Material were:

- **St. John Lutheran School, Rochester**
- **Crescent Academy Team 1, Canton**
- **Dearborn Montessori Center, Dearborn Heights**
- **Clippert Academy Team 1, Detroit**
- **Durlee Elementary /Middle School, Detroit**
- **Henderson Academy Team 1, Detroit**
- **Trinity Lutheran School, Utica**
- **Grand Blanc West Middle School, Grand Blanc**
- **St. Valentine School, Redford**

Crescent Academy Team #1 from Canton won the Special Award Category of “Incorporation of Plastics Materials”. This team used plastics in the structure of their Buildings, Public Transportation, and a complete plastics recycling center.





**SPE Award Winner Crescent Academy Team 1 Members**



**Grand Blanc West Middle School Team Members**



**1st Place Winner St. John Lutheran School Team Members**



**St. Valentine School Team Members**





**Dearborn Heights Montessori Center Team Members**



**Trinity Lutheran School Team Members**





**Award Presentation**



**Detroit Channel 4 Meteorologist Andrew Humphrey was the Master of the Ceremony for the Award program**

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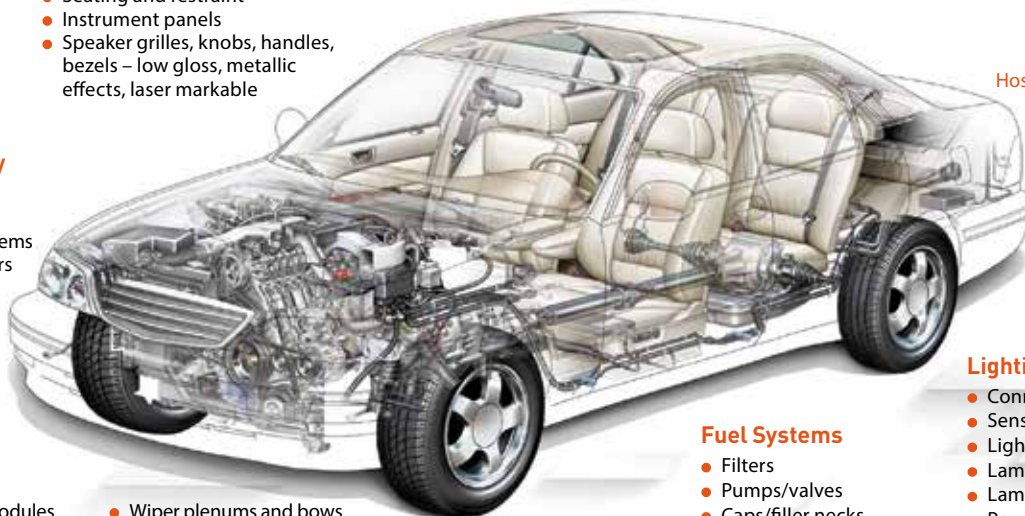
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- Seating and restraint
- Instrument panels
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- Cooling systems
- Engine covers
- Air pumps
- Connectors

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- Underbody skid plates
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- Multi-functional roof
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- Riteflex® TPC-ET
- Thermx® PCT
- Vandar® PBT Alloy
- Vectra®/Zenite® LCP

### Lighting/EE

- Connectors
- Sensors
- Lighting housings
- Lamp sockets
- Lamp wedge base
- Power distribution

### Fuel Systems

- Filters
- Pumps/valves
- Caps/filler necks
- Body clips
- Fuel cells

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# Material Auction 2015

## Helping fulfilling the SPE Mission for Education

Friday, April 10, 2015 at the MGM Grand Hotel & Casino

Since 1994, the SPE's Detroit Section has successfully presented the annual material auction and every year the auction has helped fulfill the SPE mission "To promote and provide knowledge and education of plastics and polymers worldwide". With the proceeds from the auction we fund things like scholarships to students seeking degrees in plastics related fields, travel expenses for students presenting papers at ANTEC, sending the Plastivan to local elementary, middle and high schools, awards at the Detroit Science Fair, equipment donations to local educational institutions, support of the SPE National Scholarship, the Robert Dailey Scholarship and the "Wonders of Plastics" essay contest.

The success of this event and its contribution to the SPE mission is a tribute to the generosity of all involved, past and present, from the dedicated volunteer committee members and their employers to the material donors and bidders! Again at this year's auction, recognition awards will be presented to the **Top Donor** and **Top Bidder** based on the results of the 2014 SPE Detroit Section Material Auction.

However, the success of this event depends largely on the generosity and support of our members. We ask you to help make 2015 another successful year by continuing to donate your valuable material for auction. And we invite you to participate in the festive atmosphere of the auction. Relax in the elegant setting of the MGM Grand Hotel and Casino and enjoy good food, entertainment, and camaraderie while you get ready to bid on great deals! For all companies that donate material, we will proudly advertise their company logos **free of charge** during the Material Auction.

Some of the companies that have donated to the Auction in the past include:

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Advanced Plastics  
Alloy Exchange  
American Commodities  
Americhem  
Amplas Compounding  
Asahi Kasei  
Atofina  
BASF  
Bayer Corp.  
Buckeye Polymers  
Channel Prime Alliance  
Chase Plastics Services  
Chem-Trend  
Chevron Phillips  
Creative Techniques  
Composite Technologies  
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Delta Polymers  
Destiny Plastics  
Detroit Lions  
Detroit Pistons  
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Nypla Industrial  
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Reliable Resins  
RheTech  
RTP Company  
SABIC  
Sankyo America  
Solvay  
Spartech Polycom  
Styron LLC  
Ticona  
TMG-The Materials Group  
Toray Resins  
Total Petrochemicals  
Tribar Mfg.  
21<sup>st</sup> Century Plastics Corp.  
Uniplas, Inc.  
Washington Penn Plastics Co.  
Wellman Engineering Resins

The event is still in need of major donations. So please think about donating now. If your company has resin inventory and could use a tax benefit then make a quick phone call to this year's Material Auction Chairpersons: Dawn Cooper at (248) 486-1449 (email: [dawn@uniplasinc.com](mailto:dawn@uniplasinc.com)) or Chris Surbrook at 989-495-9367 (e-mail: [csurbrook@midlandcompounding.com](mailto:csurbrook@midlandcompounding.com)) or Karen Rhodes-Parker at 248-244-8993 (e-mail: [Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com))

We ask companies to donate prime, off-grade or obsolete materials. **Donations are tax deductible.** Official terms and conditions will be supplied to a donating company. If a donating company needs to have material removed from their facility prior to the Auction, SPE will help to find warehouse space. A list of available materials is available at [www.spematerialauktion.com](http://www.spematerialauktion.com) and will be sent out prior to the Auction to allow companies to "pre-bid", or companies can attend the auction to bid in person. The highest bidder gets the material. Buyer must pay the SPE within 30 days of the auction. Payment must be received before material will be released and buyers are responsible for freight. All materials will be sold regardless of bid.

This is a great cause and we encourage companies to donate and attend the auction. You will enjoy yourself and you will be supporting the SPE educational programs. Additionally, the odds are very good that you will find some good deals on materials.

**When:** Friday April 10, 2015  
**Where:** MGM Grand Hotel & Casino, Detroit, Mi.  
**Price:** \$60 each or \$400 for Table of eight

**Time:** 4:30-5:30PM      Registration-Open Bar & Appetizers  
5:30-7:00PM      Dinner  
7:00-9:00PM      Auction Begins

**Reservations:** **Contact:** Karen Rhodes-Parker  
**Email:** [Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com)  
**Phone:** (248) 244-8993  
**Fax:** (248) 244-8925



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# November 2014 Technical Program Report

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi, IAC Group

Dear SPE Detroit Section members, I hope all of you staying warm and avoiding the blizzard and sub-arctic weather outside. We have several exciting programs planned for you in the next five months. As usual we do request that you should contact Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker and pre-register for the event by sending an email to [Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com).

Detail for these events will be in our upcoming newsletter, News brief, email blast, twitter and linked-in.

<b>2014- 2015 SPE Detroit Section Planned Events</b>			
#	Date	Event	Location
1	February 23, 2015	TDM & Plant Tour Intellicosting	Intellicosting Plant Troy
2	April 10, 2015	Material Auction	MGM Grand Hotel and Casino Detroit
3	April 13, 2015	TDM / Plastics Program at MMCC	Mid Michigan Community College Harrison
4	May 5, 2015	2015 Auto EPCON	Detroit Marriott -Troy Troy
5	May 11, 2015	TDM & Plant Tour	Hi-Tech Mold & Eng., Inc Rochester Hills, Plant #1
6	June 2015	Turner Alfrey Visiting Professor Program	Michigan Molecular Institute Midland
7	June 2015	Technical Dinner Meeting	Michigan Molecular Institute Midland
8	June 23, 2015	Golf Outing	Bay Pointe Golf Club West Bloomfield

My dear friend and a long time member of SPE, SME, SAE and ESD Mr. Bob Petrach is the new Technical Program Chair for the Detroit section. Bob is working hard to complete the 2015 -2016 calendar year Technical Programs. I have seen the preliminary plan and I am very excited about all the great activities he is planning for you. I know he will be reporting on his plans in the next few months.

See you in the upcoming events.

Yours truly,

Dr. Sassan Tarahomi

Detroit SPE Technical Program Chair

Be sure to vote for a Detroit Section Councilor and up to five Detroit Section Directors. Ballot information was emailed to members. The deadline is Saturday, February 28, 2015.





## **SPE Detroit Section Plant Tour Intellicosting, LLC**

**Date:** Monday, February 23, 2015

**Time:** 5:00 – 8:00 PM

**Location:** Intellicosting, LLC

980 Chicago Road

Troy, Michigan 48083

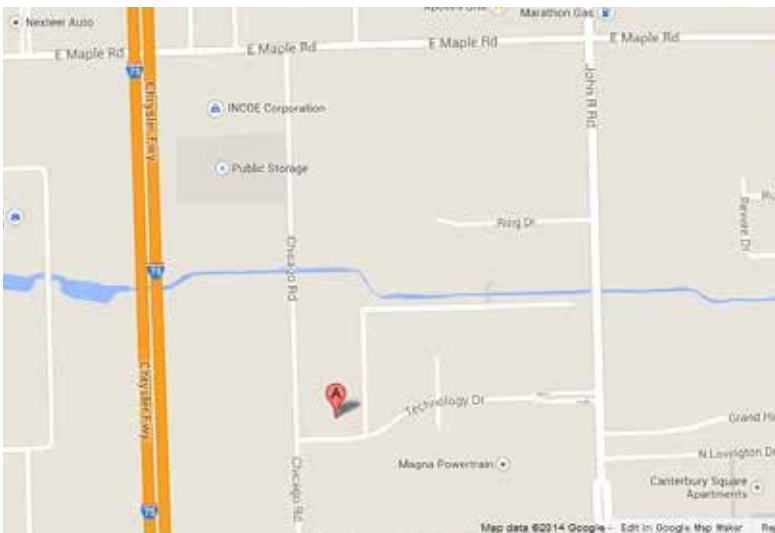
Phone (248)597-3422

### **Agenda:**

- |         |                             |
|---------|-----------------------------|
| 5:00 PM | Arrival and Networking      |
| 5:30 PM | Pizza / Sandwich            |
| 6:00 PM | Intellicosting Presentation |
| 7:00 PM | Facilities Review           |
| 8:00 PM | Program Ends                |

**Cost:** Free to students, University faculties and SPE members, non members \$10

Direction Map:



Please RSVP with Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at [Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com) or call at 248-244-8993 Ext. 3



## **SPE Detroit Section Plant Tour Hi-Tech Mold & Eng., Inc.**

**Date:** Monday, May 11, 2015

**Time:** 5:00 – 8:00 PM

**Location:** Hi-Tech Mold & Eng., Inc

1744 Northfield Drive, Plant #1

Rochester Hills , Michigan 48083

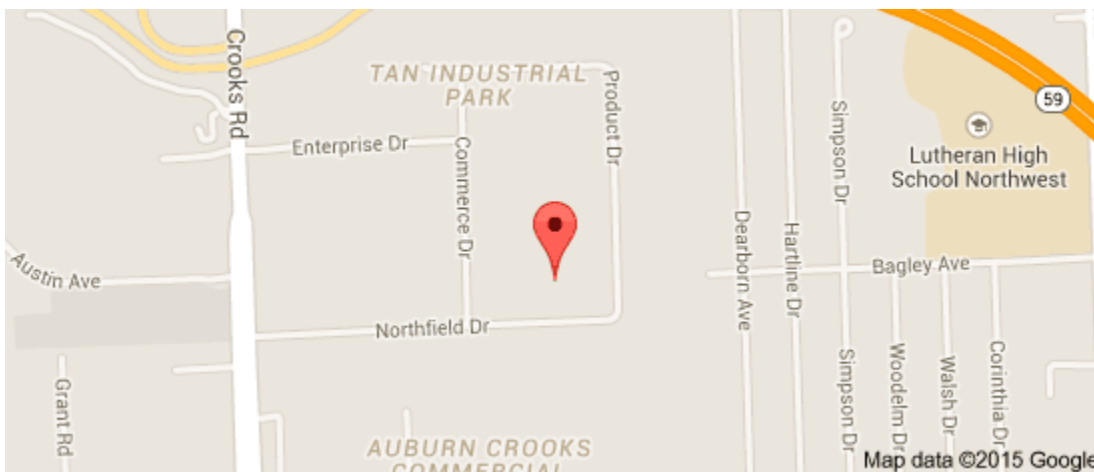
Phone (248) 844-9159

**Agenda:**

5:00 PM	Arrival and Networking
5:30 PM	Pizza / Sandwich
6:00 PM	Hi-Tech Presentation
6:30 PM	Facilities Review
8:00 PM	Program Ends

**Cost:** Free to students, University faculties and SPE members, non members \$10

Direction Map:



Please RSVP with Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at [Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com) or call at 248-244-8993 Ext. 3



## SPE Detroit Section

# Mid Michigan Community College Plastics Program

**Date:** Monday, April 13, 2015

**Time:** 5:00 – 8:00 PM

**Location:** Mid Michigan Community College

**Harrison Campus**

**1375 S. Clare Avenue**

**Harrison, Michigan 48625**

**Contact:** Steven Fosgard

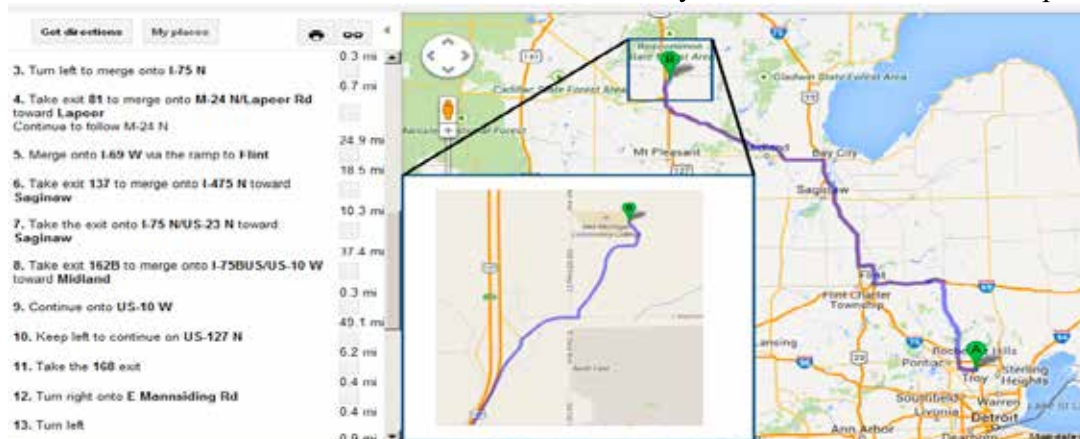
**Cell:** 989-386-6620

### Agenda:

- |         |                                     |
|---------|-------------------------------------|
| 5:30 PM | Arrival and Networking              |
| 6:00 PM | Dinner                              |
| 6:30 PM | Plastics Program Presentation       |
| 7:00 PM | Plastics Labs and Facilities Review |
| 8:00 PM | Program Ends                        |

**Cost:** Free to students, faculties and SPE members.

**Direction:** 2 hours and 45 minutes drive from Troy to MMCC - Harrison Campus



Please RSVP with Ms. Karen Rhodes-Parker at [Karen@spedetroit.com](mailto:Karen@spedetroit.com) or call at 248-244-8993 Ext. 3



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### PRESENT TO THE LARGEST GROUP OF DECISION MAKERS IN AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS

THE SPE TPO *Automotive Engineered Polyolefins Conference* typically draws over 700 attendees from 20 countries on 4 continents who are vitally interested in learning about the latest in rigid and elastomeric TPO as well as TPE and TPV technologies. Fully a third of conference attendees work for a transportation OEM, and nearly 20% work for a tier integrator. Few conferences of any size can provide this type of networking opportunity or put you before such an engaged, global audience interested in hearing the latest olefin advances. Interested in presenting your latest research? Abstracts are due **April 17, 2015** and Papers/Presentations on **July 31, 2015**. Email abstracts/papers to [TPOpapers@auto-tpo.com](mailto:TPOpapers@auto-tpo.com).

### SHOWCASE YOUR PRODUCTS & SERVICES AT THE WORLD'S LARGEST AUTOMOTIVE ENGINEERED POLYOLEFINS FORUM

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