

# Polymer Valley News



## THERMOPLASTIC ELASTOMERS CONFERENCE

October 1-3, 2024 • Akron, Ohio

Presented by the Thermoplastic Elastomers Technical Interest Group and SPE Akron Section



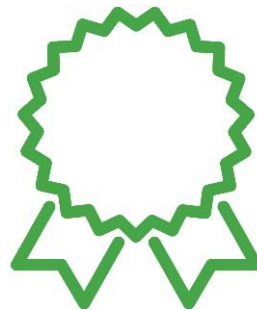
The Newsletter of the Akron Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers  
Our 66<sup>th</sup> Year of Education and Service to the Plastics Industry

### ~ Upcoming Session ~

### Akron Awards Night

Monday, May 20, 2024

Raintree Golf and Event Center  
4350 Mayfair Road  
Uniontown, OH 44685



Please join us for the last meeting of the season as we present various awards and scholarships.

#### Meeting Information

All Guests	\$35
Honoree or Scholarship Winner plus one guest	No charge

Gathering	5:00 p.m.
Dinner	6:00 p.m.
Program	7:00 p.m.

Reservations by May 17.  
Reserve and/or pre-pay link to be available soon.

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# Speaker Information

**Brian Anderson, Vice President,  
Polymer Industry Cluster at the Greater Akron Chamber**

## **A Transformational Economy through Polymer Industry Innovation**



**Abstract:** This talk delves into the inception and impact of the Polymer Industry Cluster initiative, aimed at harnessing the robust assets and capabilities within the northeast Ohio's polymer industry to propel innovation and steer the economy towards unprecedented growth. Through a collaborative effort spanning industry, higher education, government, and non-profit sectors, a series of development projects have been designed to ignite substantial and enduring economic expansion. The discussion explores how strategic partnerships, thoughtful planning, and collaboration have led to the designation of the Akron Metropolitan Statistical Area as the Sustainable Polymers Tech Hub of the United States. The Polymer Industry Cluster is working to leverage funding opportunities such as the Ohio Innovation Hub and EDA Tech Hubs programs, potentially injecting over \$100 million into the economy to fuel transformative growth. Attendees will gain insights into the blueprint for catalyzing innovation, driving growth, and positioning the region at the forefront of the polymer industry's evolution.

Brian leads the Polymer Industry Cluster Initiative of NE Ohio, as well as the data and regional economic analysis functions of the organization. Prior to the Chamber, Brian worked at a wearable technology start-up and a regional bank. He decided to make a move because he wanted to contribute to an organization that he felt could improve the region and the lives of its residents. Brian received his bachelor's degree in mathematics at Emmanuel College in Boston where he was also a three-sport collegiate athlete. From there, he attended The University of Akron for his MBA, and University of Texas – San Antonio for his master's degree in finance. Brian and his wife Casey like to travel, cook, and are dedicated fans and season ticket holders of the University of Akron men's soccer team.

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## Advertiser Index

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*Picture your ad here .....  
And also on [www.akronspe.org](http://www.akronspe.org)*

**The Akron Section is in  
need of New Board Members.**

**Please consider becoming a  
Board Member  
to help support your Section.**

**Contact anyone currently  
on the board  
if you are interested.**

**Thank You!**

*Join us for this season's advertising  
– see page 22 for the order form*

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Phone: 330-284-1417

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**The Akron SPE Section is  
happy to post local job  
openings in the plastics  
industry for 90 days for any  
member.**

**Please contact a board  
member if you are  
interested in posting.**

**For current postings, visit  
[http://www.akronspe.org/job-  
posting](http://www.akronspe.org/job-posting)**



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## Membership Report

The Akron Section currently has 164 members.

***We are always welcoming new members – invite someone to a meeting!***

## SPE National

Please click the following areas of interest:

## Board Meeting Dates

Aug 28, 2023	Jan 8, 2024
Sept None	Feb 5
Oct 2	March 4
Nov 6	April 1
Dec 4	May 6

[Contacts at National](#)

[Member Benefits](#)

[Join SPE](#)

[Akron Section](#)





**AKRON**

## **2024 "Wonders of Plastics" Essay Contest**

The Akron section of the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) is pleased to announce the 2024 "Wonders of Plastics" essay contest.

### **Eligibility**

The contest is open to all middle/junior high and high school students. The essay must be sponsored by one of the students' teachers.

### **Prizes**

First place high school essay - \$100

First place middle/junior high school essay - \$100

The sponsoring teacher of each winning essay will receive \$25

The winning essays will be printed in the Akron Section's Newsletter.

### **Topics to consider**

Advantages of plastics in food packaging

Creative use of recycled plastics

How plastics benefit humankind

How plastics improve our lifestyle

Plastics in the environment

Plastics usefulness in society

What plastics have done for me

Why the bad reputation of plastics is wrong

### **Submit your Essay to**

Polymer Engineering  
The University of Akron  
Attn: John Fellenstein  
250 S. Forge St  
Akron, OH 44325-0301

**Questions may be directed to the Akron SPE Education Committee, attention: John Fellenstein by phone or email**

**Tel:** 330-972-6334 | **Fax:** 330-972-2624

**Email:** [jfellenstein@uakron.edu](mailto:jfellenstein@uakron.edu)

**Entry must be postmarked by April 15, 2024!**

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

---

### General

Length:	Between 500 and 1,000 words
Format:	Typewritten in English on 8 ½ x 11 paper, title to appear as heading on each page; no name on any page except the entry form that must accompany each essay; 1-inch margins minimum on all sides
Authors:	The essay may be written individually or co-authored by two students
Deadline:	April 15, 2024 (postmarked)

### Organization

The organization structure of the essay should be “logical,” including the following considerations:

Introduction:	Optional
Thesis:	Several sentences
Development:	This section should be several paragraphs and should discuss the theme, analyze it, feature informal research about the theme, etc.
Conclusion:	This section should be at least one paragraph in which the author summarizes the ideas presented in the essay

### Mechanics

Spelling should be correct; syntax should be readable; punctuation should be conventional. Essay should be free of sentence fragments. Diction (word choice) should be appropriate to the subject and the writer’s understanding of the topic. Point of view should be appropriate to the topic/subject and remain constant and consistent. A mixture of first and third person is acceptable if it is appropriate to the voice of the essay. However, the use of second person (“you” either stated directly or implied) will change the “voice” of the essay in a manner damaging to its effectiveness. Footnotes and references must be included when necessary.

### Judging

Essays will be judged by a panel. In order to be judged, the essay must meet all the conditions as stated in the organization and mechanics above, with only incidental errors in mechanics. The essay must also meet the assigned minimum length and must be submitted following the prescribed format.



# ENTRY FORM

---

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
type or print

***About the author(s)***

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ age \_\_\_\_\_

Grade in School \_\_\_\_\_

Address(es) \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number(s) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail(s) \_\_\_\_\_

***About the school***

School \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone/Fax \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher \_\_\_\_\_

Class \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit your Essay to**

Polymer Engineering  
The University of Akron  
Attn: John Fellenstein  
250 S. Forge St  
Akron, OH 44325-0301

**Tel:** 330-972-6334 | **Fax:** 330-972-2624

**Email:** [jfellenstein@uakron.edu](mailto:jfellenstein@uakron.edu)

***Entries must be postmarked by April 15, 2024!***



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# SPE International Polyolefin Conference 2024

## Galveston TX: Student Poster Competition

Arsalaan Nisar Pathan, Advisor: Dr. James Eagan  
5<sup>th</sup> year Polymer Science Ph.D. student at University of Akron

3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Student poster competition

Poster title: “Chemi-Mechanical recycling of Post-Consumer Recycled (PCR) plastics”.



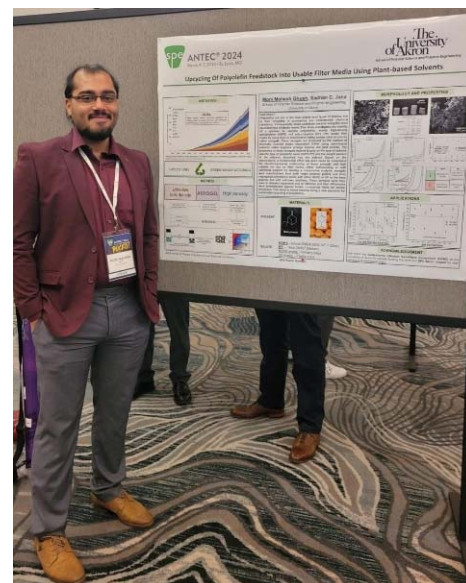
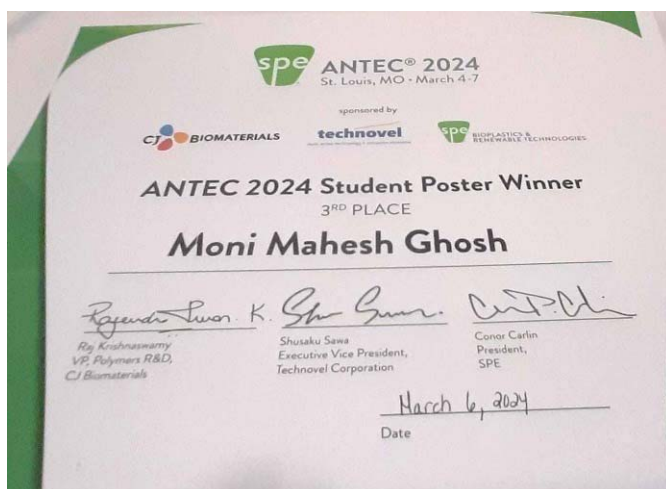
# SPE ANTEC Conference 2024

## St. Louis, MO: Student Poster Competition

Moni Mahesh Ghosh, Advisor: Dr. Sadhan Jana  
4<sup>th</sup> year Polymer Engineering Ph.D. student at University of Akron

3<sup>rd</sup> Place in Student poster competition

Poster title: “Upcycling of Polyolefin Feedstocks into usable filter media using plant-based solvents”.





# March Session







**COME FOR THE MEETING –  
STAY FOR EVERYTHING ELSE.**



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## Programs for 2023/24

- Sep. 11     **Global Economic Factors Now Favor US Plastic Product Mfg over China-Based Operations**  
Greg Kozera, Shale Cresent USA  
-- *Hilton Inn Fairlawn - Akron* \*
  
- Oct.         **Vinyltec**  
10-12        Positioning Vinyl for Tomorrow  
-- *Hilton Inn Fairlawn - Akron* \*
  
- Nov.         **Compounding Conference**  
15-16        -- *Huntington Convention Center - Cleveland* \*
  
- Dec.         No gathering – Happy Holidays!
  
- Jan. 23      **ACCESS – EV Battery Recycling**  
Jing Lyon, BRITE Energy Innovators  
*R.Shea Brewery -- Akron* \*
  
- Feb. 13      **Sustainability - Webinar**  
Conor Carlin  
-- *Virtual - Cleveland* \*
  
- Mar. 11      **Vinyl Perspectives on the Anti-Plastics Movement**  
Domenic DeCaria, The Vinyl Institute  
*Mavis Winkle's Irish Pub -- Cleveland* \*
  
- Mar. 12      **ACCESS-Stem event**  
*University of Akron -- Akron* \*
  
- Mar. 13      **ACCESS / ACS / Akron Section Solving EV Application Challenges: Innovations in Coatings and Adhesive Materials**  
Dr. Emmanuel Pitia  
*Brighten Brewing -- Akron* \*
  
- May 20      **Akron Section Awards Night**  
Brian Anderson, Vice President, Polymer Industry Cluster at the Greater Akron Chamber  
*Raintree -- Akron* \*

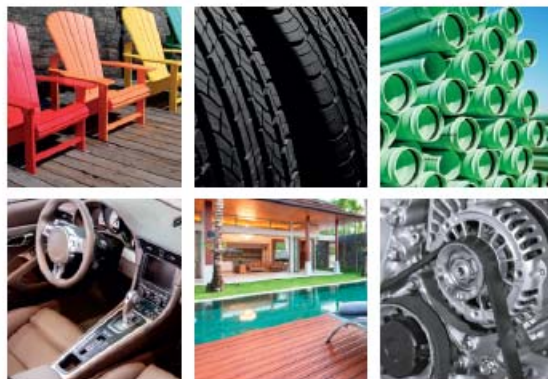


SPE Communities, formerly The Chain, is where industry professionals can participate in peer-to-peer conversations and engage in technical and non-technical discussions. Communities participants can subscribe to posts, see who else is online, receive discussion notifications, connect directly to each other via direct messaging and more. Communities are an ideal way to **stay connected with your peers** to collaborate, share advice, find solutions, and build relationships.

## Tech Talk

This is where professionals from around the world discuss the latest technical issues and innovations in range of marketplaces. Put the knowledge and expertise of thousands of plastics professionals to work for you. Ask a question. Or provide an answer. [Click here.](#)

**For technical polymer questions please use the SPE International forum “Tech Talk”**  
**For local questions please contact the officers at [akronspe1@gmail.com](mailto:akronspe1@gmail.com)**



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# VINYLTEC®

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# Case Western University Invites us to attend their Symposium in Honor of:

## Professor Hatsuo Ishida



**DATE:** FRIDAY, APRIL 19, 2024

**LOCATION:** CASE WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY,  
CLEVELAND OHIO, USA.

Case Western Reserve University and the Department of Macromolecular Science & Engineering is holding a technical symposium to honor the scientific contributions of Professor Hatsuo Ishida on Friday, April 19, 2024.

The one-day symposium will be held on the Case campus. Invited talks will explore the direction of research in areas to which Professor Ishida has contributed. The sessions will also inspire current and future student researchers with aspirations in the sciences. Dean of the Case School of Engineering, Ragu Balakrishnan will deliver opening remarks. A poster session of current research by graduate and postdoctoral students will also be presented.

Professor Ishida is a pioneer in the synthesis of polybenzoxazines, interfacial chemistry in composites, and vibrational spectroscopy applied to polymers. He has guided multiple generations of researchers both at Case and throughout the world. His students and collaborators have become leaders in their respective academic and industrial pursuits.

Please join us as we recognize Professor Ishida's contributions to science as well as his 50th anniversary at Case and 75th birthday. Attendance is open to the community.

**To Register for this Event:** [Click Here](#)

# Board Meeting Minutes March 6, 2024

**Call to Order:** In person at Cuyahoga Falls- Chamber Room. Meeting called to order at 5:30PM.

**Present:** Dan Jones, David Schultz, Larry Stanek, Fred Carter, Tony Dean, Joe Mattingly, Sherri Makar Hart, Keith Pelfrey, Amanda Peak, John Fellenstein and Critt Ohlemacher

Online: Arsalaan Pathan

**Absent:** Kevin Malpass, Sahil Gupta and Dakota Spencer

Meeting hosted by President Dan Jones.

Sherri Hart is new Councilor.

David Schultz to contact Sahil Gupta - complete. Sahil would like to stay engaged and help on specific topics- i.e.TPE TOPCON.

Special welcome to potential new Board members- Amanda Peak from Peak Analytics and Michelle Martin- Radici Plastics. We look forward to you help and support as we work to expand our section and reach community and industry!

February 5 minutes approved as written.

## **Technical Program 2023/24—David Schultz / Larry Stanek**

March 11- Vinyl Institute- Dom DiCaria- new venue- Twinsburg.

March 12- ACESS- STEM event U of Akron.

March 13- Joint ACESS meeting developed EV adhesives and coatings- Brighten Brewery.

April- Potential Cleve Tour.

May 20- Awards Banquet- Raintree

June- wrap up target Papa Joes.

NPE- Orlando, Fla- May 5-8

Need to develop a list and targets for Program Committee to address for next year's program

Akron- Oct 1-3 TPE TOPCON 2024

Cleve- Oct 16-17 Additive Mfging-set

Lighter Than Air Research- Tour

Alterra Energy/Vadxx new facility tour- Andy Oster contact

Ravago tour

Radici Plastics- Tour

Americhem Tour- Ryan King

Looking into Networking meeting with Job Coaches

Joint meeting with Sections- Ohio and Pa areas

Ideas/ suggestions??

## **House—Larry Stanek / Dakota Spencer**

Larry informed set for Hilton- Oct Conf- TPE TOPCON 2024

Raintree – Awards Banquet May 20 set to confirm menu re costing

Equipment set.

# Board Meeting Minutes – 03/06/2024

## **Membership—Kevin Malpass**

Sherri Hart reports member number now at 161. She has resent list past 2-3 years of members that did NOT renew for Task Group review and to decide how to proceed re contact dropped/expired to make calls and find out details plus will ask for in person follow up.

Voted and approved dropping \$10 fee to align with ASPE.

Sherri to determine best way to capture students with Akron SPE.

Need to develop a Social media based marketing campaign- Tony and Sherri, Amanda plus Jenny- out reach and keep and grow membership.

Thoughts Video, Resources, Networking out to FB, Linked IN, website and newsletter.

•**Dan will send out to BOD e-mail asking for details why re joined SPE??**

•**SPE Communities, Literature , Papers meetings Conferences etc**

## **Treasurer—Fred Carter**

Treasurer's report updated to end of February. Finances in good shape.

We will add as of March 6 \$1,000 to Education Fdn in name of Dr. Viv Malpass.

Vote taken to approve funding Science Fairs- ASPE STEM and District 5 - money to be sent to Dan Jones for Gift cards or money for MS and HS winners.

Transfer made from SPE to Morgan Stanley for NEW!! Robert Wegelin Legacy Scholarship.

Cuy Falls ESC- Missi Sakach- requested funding for HOP kits for Simplay 3 tour with STEAM teacher group Feb 20 voted and approved - Fred to handle.

## **Student Chapter—Arsalaan Pathan**

Current student Chapter Advisor is Prof Weinan Xu.

PESO had students attend recent Conf Polyolefin- Arsalaan took 3<sup>rd</sup> place Poster and ANTEC- student took 3<sup>rd</sup> place with his Poster

Arsalaan to provide PR for Jenny.

Students toured Bridgestone- FRS this month

ASPE- BOD asked for added involvement ideas added mentorship and suggestions.

## **Councilor—Sherri Makar Hart**

Council meeting at ANTEC details to follow.

Voting took place for Intl candidates.

## **Public Interest / Advertising—Tony Dean**

Akron Page of SPE Int'l Website updated with latest meeting announcements and newsletters.

Six ads for 2023-2024 year placed so far.

Tony Dean to contact Sandra Pejic of Thermo Fisher Scientific, align with Plan A-TPE TOPCON 2024- will be cost or Plan B- Univ of Akron- summer program Dave to confirm good with Cleve.

New advertiser for this year Molded Marketing

Tony continues to make sure Intl ASPE site is up-to date.

Tony has new contact for added PR with ABJ

## **Newsletter—Sherri Makar Hart**

February newsletter has been sent out.

# Board Meeting Minutes – 03/06/2024

## **Website / Social Media—Sherri Makar Hart**

Need updates for Social media- Linked In and FB.  
PESO has provided many U of Akron links.

## **Education Committee—John Fellenstein**

Need new applicants for Scholarships checking Undergraduate class- U of Akron, Explorer and Goodyear for candidates

Science Olympiad- U of Akron-March 9

District 5- U of Akron- March 16

Need judges

John finalizing review with BOD 12 essays from Boardman

John aligning Scholarship students to attend Awards plus align NEW Robert Wegelin Legacy Scholarship.

## **Education Foundation—Joe Mattingly**

Joe reports that Funds are doing well.

Good balance currently with gains.

## **Awards—Keith Pelfrey**

Keith reports- that BOD has aligned awardees for this year.

Hall of Honor- Harry Covington- Ferry Industries sponsored by Larry Stanek.

Zekan- Bob Weiler.

Lifetime Awards- Joe Mattingly- Goodyear and David Schultz- Rubber World- Technical Editor.

KEY activity for end of 2023-24 Year.

Keynote speaker- Brian Anderson- Greater Akron Chamber- Polymer Cluster and Tech Hub update.

## **Growth Committee—Kevin Malpass / Sherri Hart / Amanda Peak**

BOD discussed we need to align added Co-Chair to Committee to align ideas for growth. New marketing campaign aligned in Membership Committee can be a great start.

## **TOPCON 2024—David Schultz**

TPE Committee into fifth meeting March.

A Website is up and Live.

Call for Papers out.

Need Sponsors and Exhibitors.

Need ASPE BOD input if any TPE contacts.

## **ACCESS Update—David Schultz**

ACCESS will have 2 Joint meetings this year

March 13- ACCESS/ACS both at Brighten Brewery

PayPal available for events – have added Dietary restrictions plus Company encourage to sign up/pay prior to meetings.

## **Old Business**

John will remain at AGPA- til June 30.

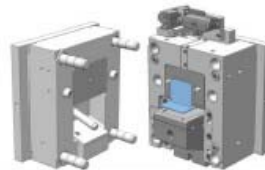
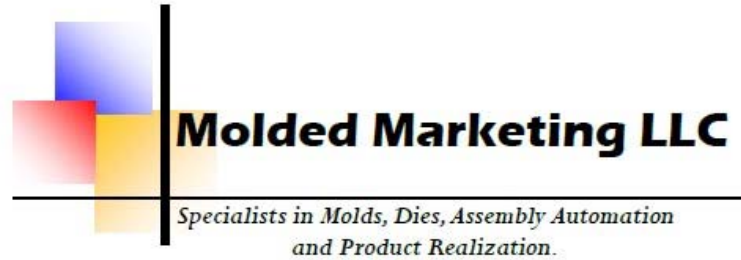
# Board Meeting Minutes – 03/06/2024

## New Business

Joe informs he has made new contacts at Goodyear and will align with ASPE and ACESS for STEM events and Scholarships.

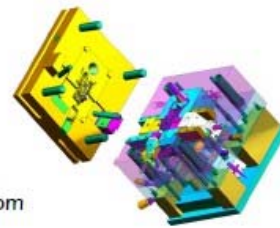
GAC- Greater Akron Chamber reports that they received a Tech Hub grant and includes Cleve centric plastics process training need company support.

Meeting Adjourned. Next meeting will take place April 1, 2024. It is Monday only available date at Cuy Falls Library. Last meeting set for May 6.



### **MOLDED MARKETING LLC**

14840 Friendsville Road  
Burbank, OH 44214  
☎ 330.201.3751  
E-Mail [Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com](mailto:Scott.Peters@MoldedMarketing.com)  
Scott Peters—President



**Save the Date!**

**April 23rd, 2024**

Please join us Tuesday evening, April 23<sup>rd</sup> for a technical dinner presentation. Our speaker will be Moxitec CTO, Abolfazl Mohebbi.

Details and registration information will be available soon.





# Akron Section Past Presidents

*63 years of  
excellence*

1959-1960 Donald F. Siddall  
1960-1961 Milan Krajcik  
1961-1962 Foster J. Young  
1962-1963 Dickson L. Stoker, III  
1963-1964 Edward L. Hillier  
1964-1965 John R. Russell  
1965-1966 John R. Russell  
1966-1967 Clyde H. Jones  
1967-1968 Alan Corry, Jr.  
1968-1969 Bernard M. Saffian  
1969-1970 Harold R. Schick  
1970-1971 Robert G. Hills  
1971-1972 John J. Satterfield  
1972-1973 Alexis M. Gross  
1973-1974 Francis J. Maurer  
1974-1975 Leverett A. Anderson, Jr.  
1975-1976 Robert M. Hershey  
1976-1977 Richard L. Fleshman  
1977-1978 David Curtis  
1978-1979 John A. Zelek, Jr.  
1979-1980 Gerald W. Whitnable  
1980-1981 Kathleen N. Bechter  
1981-1982 Victor E. Giuffrida  
1982-1983 James Steiner  
1983-1984 Robert G. Hills  
1984-1985 Anthony F. Dean, Jr.  
1985-1986 Gene Buser  
1986-1987 Harry J. Barth  
1987-1988 Judith A. Fallon  
1988-1989 William E. Tosko  
1989-1990 Robert C. Wegelin  
1990-1991 Geraldine R. Stromquist

1991-1992 Spencer Kreiser  
1992-1993 Robert C. Wegelin  
1993-1994 Anthony F. Dean, Jr.  
1994-1995 Wayne Decamp  
1995-1996 Melanie Stewart  
1996-1997 Kevin Hershfield  
1997-1998 David Schultz  
1998-1999 John Raab  
1999-2000 Gary Taylor  
2000-2001 Kevin Malpass  
2001-2002 Kenneth L. Sharp  
2002-2003 Joseph E. Pfeiffer  
2003-2004 Robert C. Wegelin  
2004-2005 Joseph Mattingly, Jr.  
2005-2006 Lloyd A. Goettler  
2006-2007 John Woodside  
2007-2008 Vivian Malpass  
2008-2009 Joseph Mattingly, Jr.  
2009-2010 David A. Katz  
2010-2011 Lloyd A. Goettler  
2011-2012 David Schultz  
2012-2013 Kevin Malpass  
2013-2014 Dan Jones  
2014-2015 Vivian Malpass  
2015-2016 Keith Pelfrey  
2016-2017 Robert Weiler  
2017-2018 Tom McQuaide  
2018-2019 Nicole Fraifogl  
2019-2020 Larry Stanek  
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# Akron Section Society of Plastics Engineers Educational Foundation



06-22

The Akron Society of Plastics Engineers Educational Foundation operates exclusively for the benefit of and to carry out the purposes of the Akron Section of the Society of Plastics Engineers, which is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to plastics by making educational scholarship grants to deserving students in the field of plastics engineering and related subjects. The Organization is supported primarily by contributions from the Akron Society of Plastics Engineers, the Society's individual members and corporations like yours affiliated with the polymer industry.

Since the inception in 1983, the Akron Society of Plastics Engineers Educational Foundation has grown to its current position through the hard work of many volunteers and the generosity of the local business community. Over the nearly forty years that the foundation has been in existence, it has provided over 300 scholarships to young men and women totaling in excess of \$441,000 to assist them in furthering their careers in the polymer industry.

Our goal is to continue to grow the assets of the Foundation in order to increase the number of scholarships awarded, as well as the size of the awards, and to do so in perpetuity. In doing this, we hope to be able to contribute to the supply of well-trained individuals to support the growth of the polymer industry in the Northeast Ohio area today and well into the future.

When the Foundation began its fund raising activities in 1983, we offered those companies who contributed a substantial donation, a perpetual annual scholarship in their name. To date we have four named scholarships, Newell/Rubbermaid, Goodyear, Ken Sharp Memorial and Jim Steiner Memorial scholarships. We are asking your company to help with the growth of well-trained individuals in the local polymer industry. Please print this page, fill out the information and mail it to David Schultz, 610 Berkshire Drive, Medina, Ohio 44256.

## Akron SPE Scholarship Donation Commitment

- \$50,000 lump sum
- \$10,000/yr. next 5 yrs.
- \$6,250/yr. next 8 yrs.
- Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Company name: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact person: \_\_\_\_\_

Ph. # or email: \_\_\_\_\_

Our named scholarship donors are recognized at the annual Awards Night of the Akron Society of Plastics Engineers. We invite you to present your tax deductible donation at our Awards Night held in May each year.

We look forward to your support of this very worthwhile cause by your fine company. Please contact me at (330) 283-5721 with any questions. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
*Joe Mattingly, Foundation Chair*  
*Akron Section Society of Plastics Engineers, Educational Foundation*



**Akron Section Society of Plastics Engineers**  
Tony Dean, Advertising Manager - 330-929-9916

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This is the 65<sup>th</sup> year of the Akron SPE Section and rates are for entire season, September 2023 – Summer 2024. **Payable in Advance. Please let me know if you need an invoice.**

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