





Dear Friends and Partners,

Our mission is focused and vital: to support the next generation of plastics professionals. We fulfill this by inspiring young minds through mentorship and providing the critical funding for scholarships and programs that bridge the gap between the classroom and industry.

This year brought significant global headwinds. We recognize that both our organization and our dedicated and generous donors have navigated a landscape of economic uncertainty. Yet it is often in challenging times that true commitment is revealed. Despite these pressures, we grew our impact—a feat only possible because of your unwavering loyalty.

Because you chose to stay the course with us, we have:

**Increased Scholarships:** Removing financial barriers for high-potential students who might otherwise have pursued different career paths.

**Fueled Innovation:** Funding programs that demonstrate the sustainable, high-tech reality of modern materials science.

**Strengthened the Pipeline:** Delivering programs that excite students about the limitless possibilities within our industry.

Through the tireless efforts of our Board, SPE Chapters, and non-profit and corporate partners, we have proven that our community is resilient and deeply invested in its future.

Every metric and student story in this report is a direct result of your partnership. You aren't just funding Positive Plastics Education; you are building the foundation of our industry's next chapter.

Thank you for your trust, your vision, and your partnership.

With gratitude,

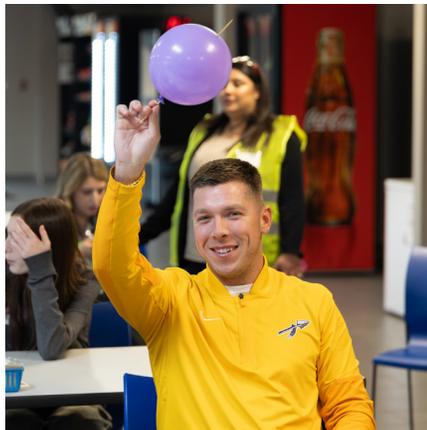
Eve Vitale

Chief Executive, SPE Foundation



## YOUR WORK MATTERS YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

Encouraging the next generation to continue your legacy in building a sustainable future.





Dear Practitioners and Advocates,

The SPE Foundation is a vital force within our society—defined by purpose, guided by integrity, and measured by lasting and far-reaching impact. Every professional in our industry has an origin story: a spark of inspiration from a mentor, a timely opportunity, or a moment of curiosity that defined their path.

Through engaging initiatives like the PlastiVan program, collaborations with Girl Scout Councils, and hundreds of thousands of dollars in annual scholarships, the Foundation has become the shared origin story for the next generation. These programs do more than educate; they ignite imagination and empower young people to see themselves as our industry’s future problem-solvers.

The year 2025 marks a pivotal chapter. Our new partnership with PLASTICS creates unprecedented opportunities to expand our reach and influence. Workforce development remains a critical challenge, and both SPE and PLASTICS recognize our shared responsibility—and the opportunity—to nurture talent early. By inspiring curiosity today, we guide emerging professionals toward meaningful engagement with SPE and the broader plastics community.

The SPE Foundation stands as a catalyst in this mission, transforming potential into purpose. By investing in these future professionals now, we are empowering the superheroes who will shape tomorrow’s materials, technologies, and solutions.

Thank you for being part of this story.

Sincerely,

Scott A. Eastman  
SPE President





## DRIVEN BY YOUR SUPPORT

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Thank you for supporting STEM Education for a Sustainable Future in 2025!

**\$304,000**

in scholarships awarded to



**81** students at

**45** universities

**\$20,490**

raised from SPE membership  
renewal donations

**\$17,082**

total grant dollars awarded



**15 3D printers**

awarded to 10 U.S. states and British Columbia



**\$744,000+**

generously given to support the work of the SPE Foundation



PlastiVan® served over

**17,616**

students in **2** countries, **19** states and **68** cities



**52** donors gave more than

**\$10,500**

on Giving Tuesday to support PlastiVan® visits



**367**

Girl Scouts earned our patches



**10**

SPE Jr. Researchers

For more information on how you can support the SPE Foundation education and workforce development, contact us at [foundation@4spe.org](mailto:foundation@4spe.org).

**YOUR WORK MATTERS**

# SPE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

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The SPE Foundation awards numerous scholarships each year to exceptional undergraduate and graduate students pursuing careers in the plastics industry.



**\$304,000**

Total Scholarship Dollars Awarded



**\$70,500**

Foundation Funds Awarded



**\$233,500**

SPE Chapter and Other Organization-  
Sponsored Scholarships

**Thank you to all of our SPE Chapters and other organizations that supported scholarships in 2025**

## **SPE Chapters Supporting Scholarships**

- SPE Automotive Division
- SPE Blow Molding Division
- SPE Chicago Section
- SPE Cleveland Section
- SPE Composites Division
- SPE Detroit Section
- SPE Extrusion Division
- SPE Flexible Packaging Division
- SPE Injection Molding Division
- SPE Pittsburgh Section
- SPE Polymer Modifiers & Additives Division
- SPE Thermoplastic Elastomers Technical Interest Group
- SPE Thermoplastic Materials & Foams Division
- SPE Vinyl Plastics Division

## **Other Organizations**

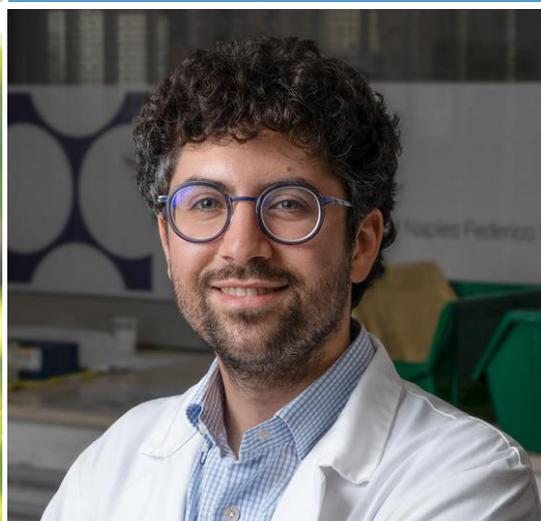
- ALPS Inspection
- Brightmark
- Chicago S.P.E. Educational Foundation
- Dr. Matthew & Mrs. Patricia Harthcock
- Dupont™ Tedlar®
- John Haas
- MasterGraphics
- Plastics Pioneers Association
- PlastChicks
- Plastics Hall of Fame
- Underground Devices, Inc.
- Western Plastics Pioneers

**SCHOLARSHIPS**



(Left) **Kendra Allen**  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Energy Science and Engineering

(Right) **Claire Marble**  
University of Wisconsin, Stout  
Plastics Engineering and Manufacturing  
Engineering



(Left) **Chandrima Karthik**  
University of Alabama, Birmingham  
Materials Engineering

(Right) **Paolo Iaccarino**  
Scuola Superiore Meridionale  
Mathematical and Physical Sciences



(Left) **Sarah Witte**  
University of Arizona  
Industrial Engineering

(Right) **EonYeon Jo**  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Data Science and Engineering



(Left) **JJ Irons**  
University of Wisconsin, Platteville  
Applied Engineering Technology  
Management

(Right) **Kyle Perry**  
Shawnee State University  
Plastics Engineering Technologies,  
Electromechanical Engineering, CADD

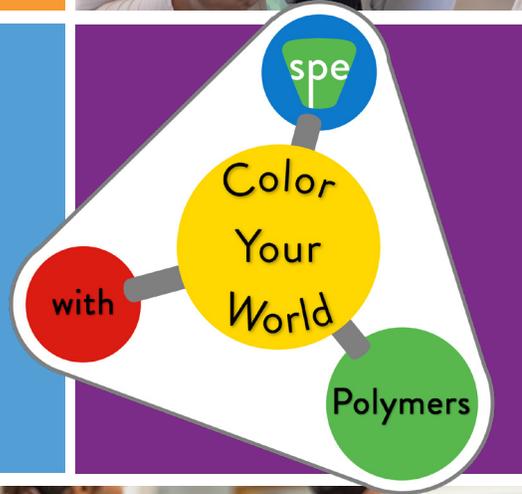


# EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS IN STEM THROUGH POSITIVE PLASTICS EDUCATION

The SPE Foundation worked with Girl Scouts in Florida, Pennsylvania, and Indiana in 2025 delivering “Color Your World with Polymer Science” and “Sustainable Packaging” plastics education and awarded patches to 367 girls.



367  
Girl Scouts earned our patches this year!



The SPE Foundation Girl Scout Gold Award is given to girls whose project is making a positive impact on community recycling, promoting plastics sustainability, or supporting STEM career education.

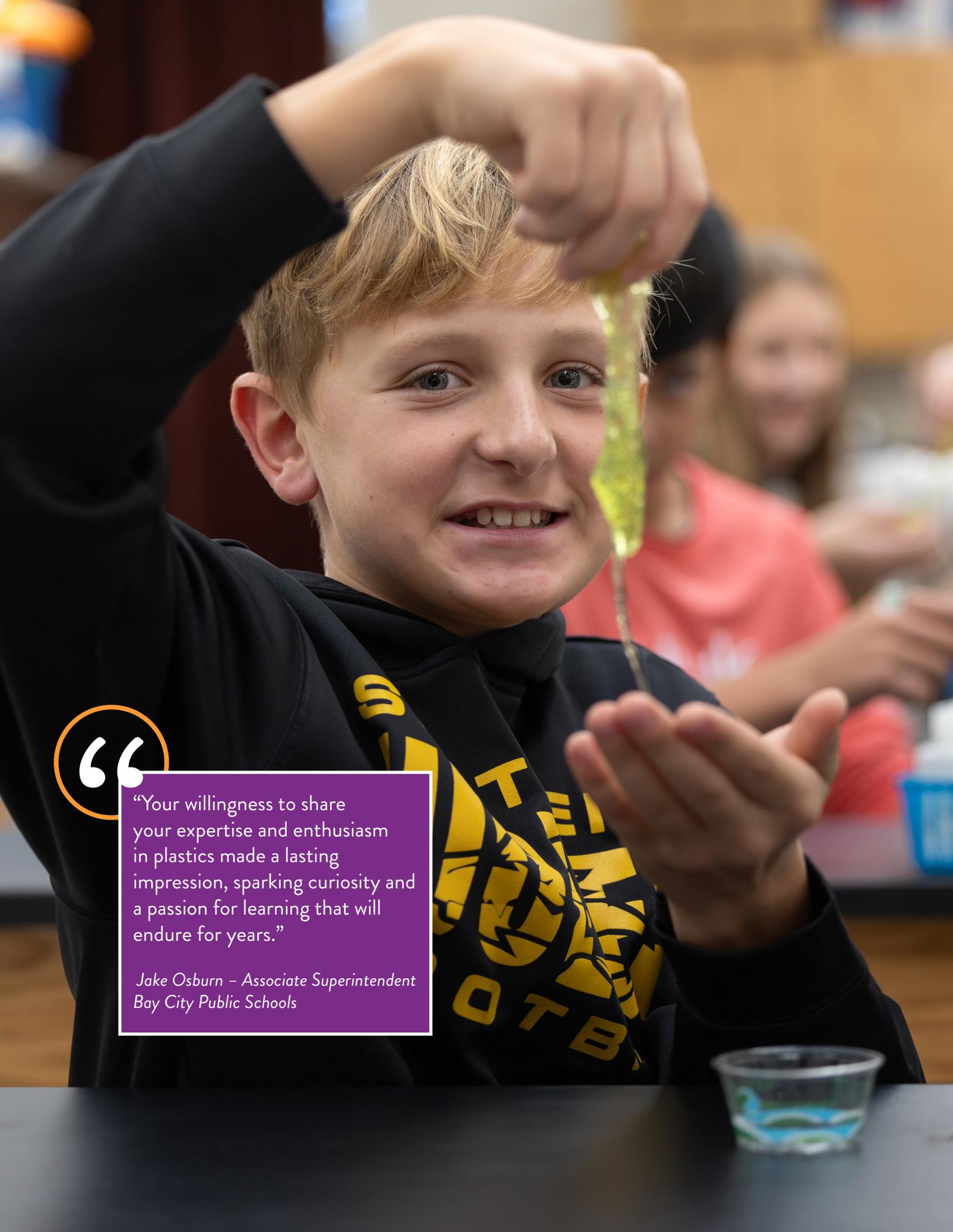
Congratulations to Claire Costello!

Claire's project, GiveNKind, partners with local businesses to collect surplus goods and connects them with nonprofits that can put these materials to meaningful use. Her work not only supports organizations in achieving their missions but also promotes upcycling and increases access to essential items for individuals and communities in need.



We are grateful for our partners and sponsors who directly support the SPE Patch Program for Girl Scout Councils:





“Your willingness to share your expertise and enthusiasm in plastics made a lasting impression, sparking curiosity and a passion for learning that will endure for years.”

*Jake Osburn – Associate Superintendent  
Bay City Public Schools*

# STEM EDUCATION FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

## Thank you to our generous 2025 PlastiVan® sponsors:

Greg and Nancy Adams

Advanced Blending Solutions

Ampacet Corporation

Arkema

Asahi Kasei Plastics North America

Ascend Performance Materials

Axiom Engineered Systems

BASF

Margaret Baumann

Braskem

Celanese Foundation

Chicago S.P.E. Educational  
Foundation

ConxusNEO

Dupont™ Tedlar®

Elizabeth Egan

Patrick and Sharon Farrey

General McLane School

Husky Technologies

Kimball Solutions

Manner Polymers

Dr. Leslie O'Leary

Plastics Industry Association and  
Equipment Council

Plastics Pioneers Association

Plastikos

Mark Richardson and Eve Vitale

Dr. Saurav Sengupta

Matt Seaholm

Series One LLC

SPE Automotive Division

SPE Blow Molding Division

SPE Color & Appearance Division

SPE Detroit Section

SPE Flexible Packaging Division

SPE Milwaukee Education  
Foundation

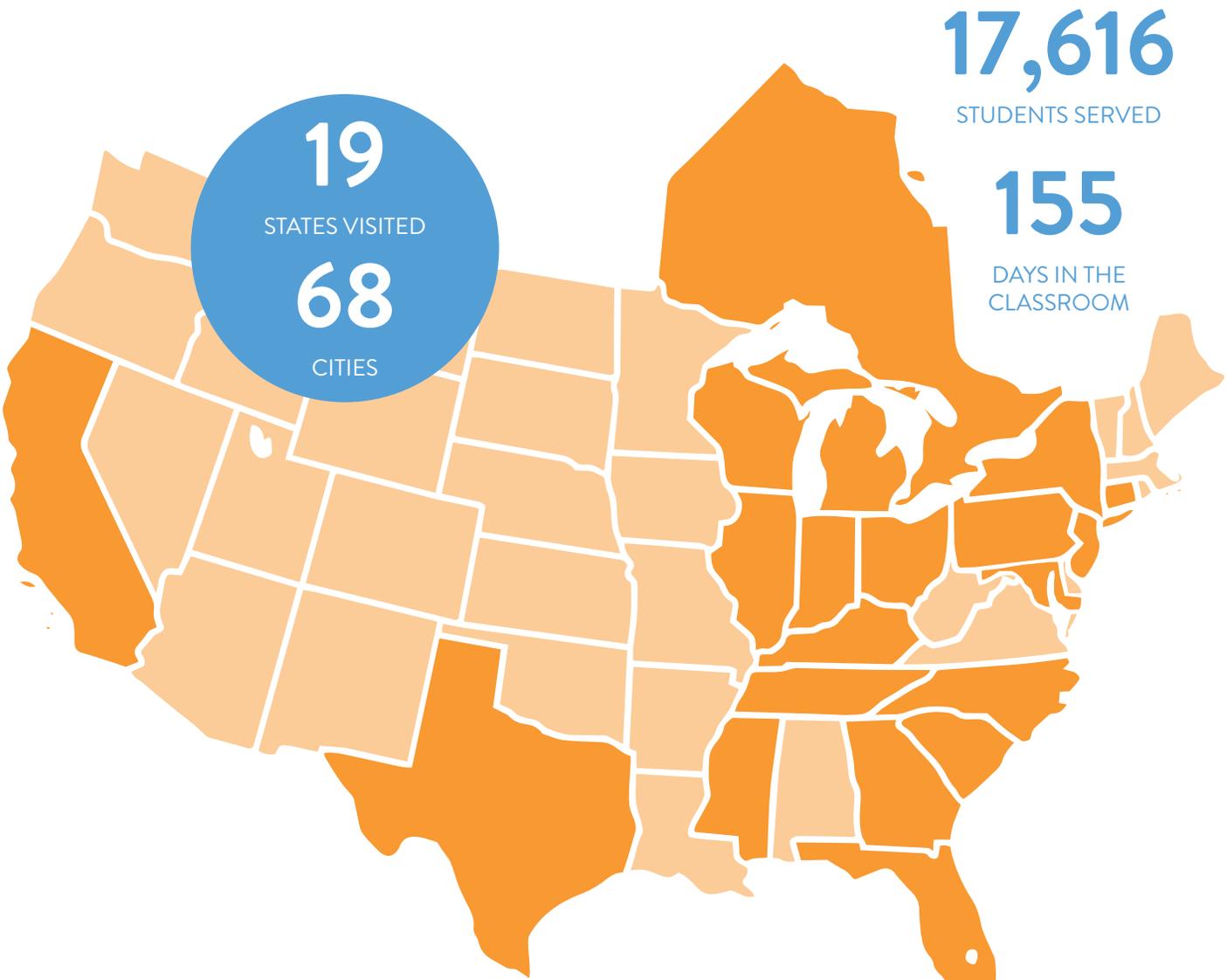
SPE NW Pennsylvania Section

SPE Palisades-MidAtlantic Section

SPE Vinyl Plastics Division

Mark Wolverton

And many other generous individuals



PLASTIVAN

## OUR PARTNERS ARE STEPPING UP FOR POSITIVE PLASTICS EDUCATION

The **SPE COLOR AND APPEARANCE DIVISION** donated \$35,000 for the PlastiVan® program and hosted 40 students from Cleveland School of Architecture and Design at CAD RETEC.



**Dupont™ Tedlar®** donated \$20,000 to support 2 scholarships, PlastiVan®, and the Girl Scout Council patch program.

The **Plastics Hall of Fame** awarded \$30,000 in scholarships to 6 deserving students.

**Manner Polymers** gave \$10,000 in support of the SPE After School STEM Clubs in McKinney, TX.

**SPE Failure Analysis & Prevention Technical Interest Group** donated \$8,025 in support of the Michael P. Sepe Memorial Scholarship.



**Dr. Matthew and Mrs. Patricia Harthcock** endowed a \$25,000 scholarship for graduate students.

**BASF** supported PlastiVan® in their community and sponsored 10 SPE Jr. Researchers.

The **SPE Polymer Modifiers & Additives Division** awarded \$22,000 in scholarships, raising their total giving to \$102,500.

The **Celanese Foundation** gave \$30,000 to support the SPE Jr. Researchers and Positive Plastics Education™ in Metro Detroit.



**Husky Technologies** supported PlastiVan in the U.S. and Canada serving 2,980 students.

The **SPE Milwaukee Education Foundation** gave \$7,500 to support PlastiVan® visits in Wisconsin.

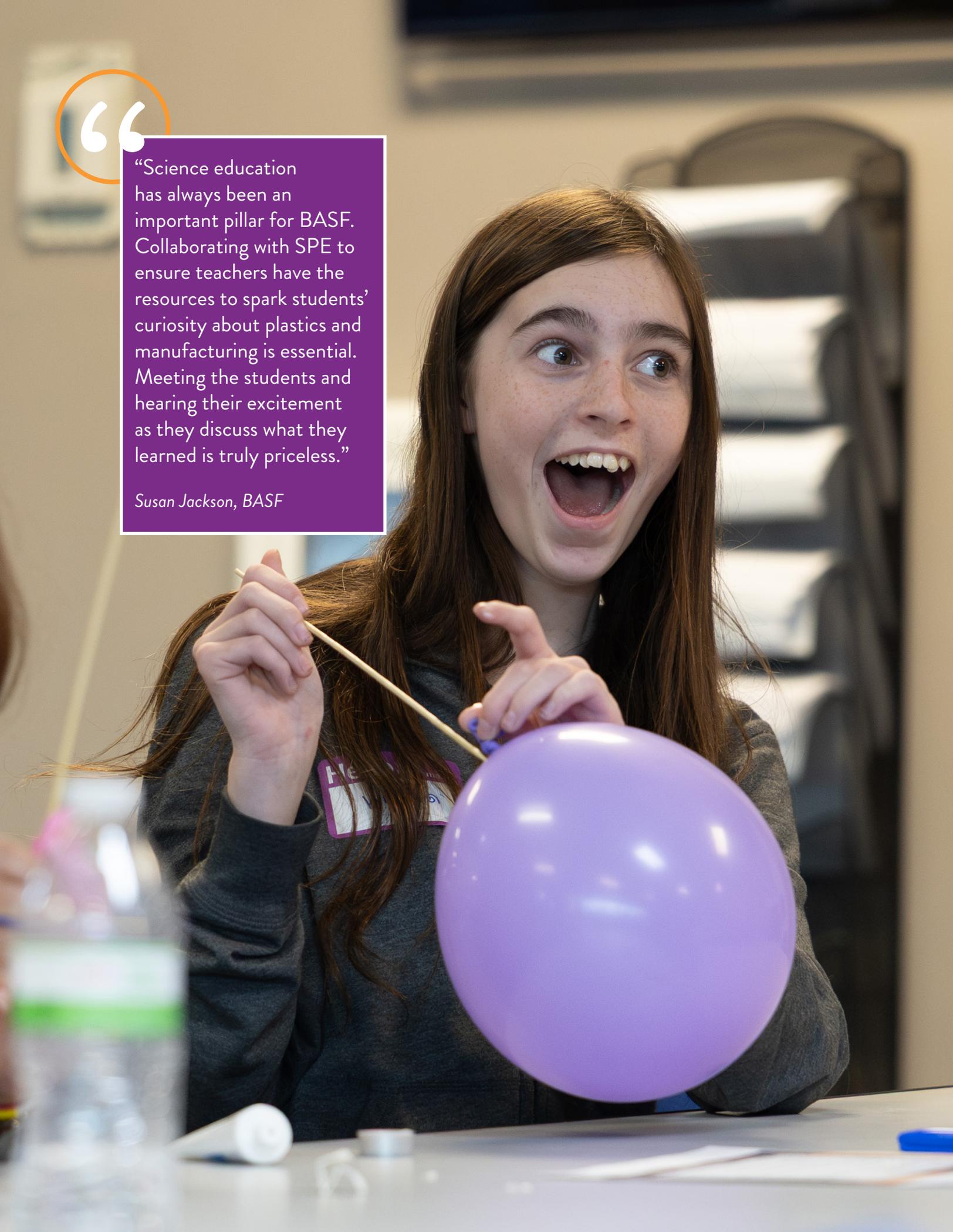
**Ampacet** supported Positive Plastics Education™ for the third year in a row with a \$10,000 gift.

**MasterGraphics** invested in the future of students by contributing \$6,250 in 2025—funding a scholarship award and further building their scholarship endowment.

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“Science education has always been an important pillar for BASF. Collaborating with SPE to ensure teachers have the resources to spark students’ curiosity about plastics and manufacturing is essential. Meeting the students and hearing their excitement as they discuss what they learned is truly priceless.”

*Susan Jackson, BASF*



## GRANTS

The SPE Foundation Grants Program strives to provide students of all ages with the means to explore the science, technology, and engineering of plastics and polymers.



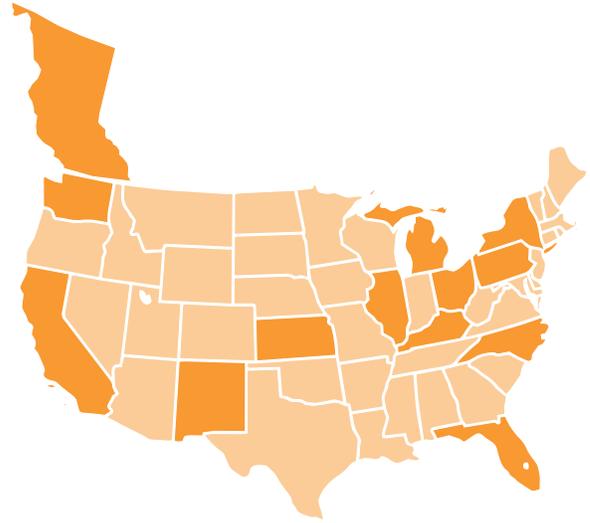
15

3D printers awarded



\$17,082

and 22 Grants Awarded



Three high school students in the SPE Jr. Researcher Program competed in the SPE Thermoforming Division Student RC Car Competition in Atlanta, Georgia. They designed a car body and a thermoforming mold, then manufactured two bodies for the competition where they raced against several university teams. A special shoutout to Vantage Plastics for leading the students through the manufacturing process and to one BMG for their support of student travel.



“Thank you again for the excellent presentation and mentoring! PlastiVan and 3D printing has my class so excited about plastic manufacturing, and I have added many supplies to my list for next year’s unit! This was so very beneficial!!”

*Stacey Barnard, Robotics & Engineering Instructor,  
William D. Ford Career Technical Center*

# THE POWER OF A SINGLE DAY: GIVING TUESDAY 2025

On Giving Tuesday, our community united around a shared goal: to bring the vital, positive story of plastics with students and inspire future plastics professionals. Thanks to your support, we are empowering young leaders to tackle tomorrow's complex challenges with creativity and innovation.

 **\$11,588**

raised by 52 donors on Giving Tuesday to support PlastiVan®

## OUR COLLECTIVE IMPACT

Every dollar raised on Giving Tuesday was a vote of confidence in the necessity of Positive Plastics Education™ for students. Because of your generosity 1,000 additional students will experience PlastiVan in 2026!

Special thanks to the SPE Color and Appearance Division whose last-minute donation helped us meet our goal for the day and whose annual \$35,000 support allows us to serve schools across the country. THANK YOU, CAD!



The Color & Appearance Division of SPE proudly supports the PlastiVan Program. Each year, we bring students to our RETEC meetings to explore the science and value of plastics and connect with our member companies. Watching young minds sparked by the positive impact of plastics—and potential future careers—is inspiring. PlastiVan makes it possible.

*Doreen Becker, CAD Councilor  
Global Director of Sustainability,  
Ampacet*

POSITIVE PLASTICS EDUCATION





SINCE 1948  
Plastics Pioneers  
Association



DETROIT



Celanese  
FOUNDATION



EXTRUSION



COLOR &  
APPEARANCE



WESTERN  
PLASTICS  
PIONEERS



POLYMER  
MODIFIERS  
& ADDITIVES



AUTOMOTIVE



BRIGHTMARK



COMPOSITES



NORTHWESTERN  
PENNSYLVANIA



BLOW  
MOLDING



CHICAGO



FLEXIBLE  
PACKAGING



VINYL  
PLASTICS



FAILURE  
ANALYSIS &  
PREVENTION



SPE MILWAUKEE  
EDUCATION FOUNDATION



MILWAUKEE



PRODUCT  
DESIGN &  
DEVELOPMENT



PITTSBURGH



THERMOPLASTIC  
MATERIALS &  
FOAMS

# AMBASSADOR GIVING SOCIETY

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The SPE Foundation Ambassador Giving Society honors our most generous partners. The individuals, SPE Chapters, and entities listed here have significantly contributed to our mission of providing Positive Plastics STEM education to students worldwide. Their exceptional support advances our goals and inspires future generations to build on the important work accomplished by our industry. We deeply appreciate their generosity.

## VISIONARY LEVEL

\$500,000 +

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## PATRON LEVEL

\$10,000-\$24,999

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Greg Adams & Nancy Kesler  
Ascend Performance Materials  
Bemis Manufacturing  
Brightmark  
ConxusNEO  
Davis-Standard Corporation  
ExxonMobil  
Failure Analysis and Prevention TIG  
Elizabeth Giles  
iD Additives, Inc.  
Institute of Packaging Professionals  
John Deere World HQ  
MasterGraphics  
McNeely Plastics  
Stephen Murrill  
Pennsylvania College of Technology  
SPE Decorating & Coatings Division  
SPE NW Pennsylvania Section  
SPE Pacific Northwest Section  
SPE Pittsburgh Section  
SPE Product Design & Development Division  
The Materials Group  
Tupperware Brands Corp  
Eve Vitale and Mark Richardson  
XTO Energy

## GRAND PATRON LEVEL

\$25,000-\$49,999

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Ampacet  
Arkema  
BASF  
Charter Nex Films, Inc.  
Colortech  
Dr. Matthew & Mrs. Patricia Harthcock  
Manner Polymers  
Niagara Cares Foundation  
Plastics Hall of Fame  
PMMI  
Michael Rehkopf  
SPE Chicago Section  
SPE Palisades-MidAtlantic Section

SPE Recycling TIG  
SPE Tex-La Section  
SPE Thermoplastic Elastomers TIG  
SPE Thermoplastic Materials & Foams Division  
SPE Thermoset Division  
SPE Vinyl Plastics Division

## CHAMPION LEVEL

\$50,000-\$99,999

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Dupont™ Tedlar®  
Husky Technologies  
Plastics Industry Association  
Chicago S.P.E. Educational Foundation  
SPE Flexible Packaging Division  
SPE Injection Molding Division  
SPE Milwaukee Education Foundation  
Underground Devices, Inc.  
Western Plastics Pioneers, Inc.

## CENTURION LEVEL

\$100,000-\$249,999

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Celanese  
Celanese Foundation  
Chevron Phillips Chemical  
Greenville County School District  
John Haas  
Ruth Neward  
SPE Blow Molding Division  
SPE Cleveland Section  
SPE Composites Division  
SPE Extrusion Division  
SPE Polymer Modifiers & Additives Division

## DISTINCTION LEVEL

\$250,000-\$499,999

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Braskem  
Plastics Pioneers Association  
SPE Color & Appearance Division

CREATE A LEGACY

# SPE FOUNDATION AMBASSADOR GIVING SOCIETY

## 2025 ANTEC® Honors & Awards Luncheon

This year we honored our dedicated partners as they were inducted into the Ambassador Giving Society or moved up a level through their 2025 contributions. Their outstanding support not only advances our mission but also inspires future generations. Each donor has our gratitude for their unwavering dedication.



“It is important to Manner Polymers that we give back to the local community in which we operate and build the next generation of scientists. Positive Plastics Education speaks to the core of who we are, therefore, we will remain faithful in our support of the SPE McKinney ISD STEAM Program.”

Dr. Sherrika Sanders, SPE Foundation Board Member and Director of Product Technology at Manner Polymers, was in attendance to receive their Patron Level award. Manner supports the PlastiVan in McKinney Texas middle schools as well as the SPE Foundation’s After-school STEAM clubs. Under Dr. Sanders’ direction Manner Polymers hosts these students every year at their plant for a day of technical fun and learning.



CELEBRATING GENEROSITY

# MEET THE SPE FOUNDATION BOARD WORKING TO SUPPORT POSITIVE PLASTICS EDUCATION FOR TODAY'S STUDENTS

## SPE FOUNDATION BOARD

**Patrick Farrey**  
SPE, CEO

**Eve Vitale**  
SPE, Chief Executive

**Matthew Harthcock, Ph.D.**  
SPE Foundation, Chair  
Founder and CEO, Solutions by Harthcock Associates

**Conor Carlin**  
Past President, SPE  
SPE Foundation, Vice Chair  
President, Clefs Advisory, LLC

**Greg Adams**  
Vice President (Retired), SABIC Americas

**Lilian Judy Adeyemi**  
Plastics Engineer

**Doreen Becker**  
Director of Sustainability, Ampacet Corporation

**Brian Gibson**  
Quality Manager (Retired), TEKNIPLEX

**Allison Larocque**  
Process Engineer, Kuriyama Canada

**Al McGovern**  
SPE Honored Service Member  
Director of Mechanical Engineering (Retired),  
Shure Incorporated

**Leslie O'Leary, Ph.D.**  
R&D Director – Packaging, Specialty Plastics &  
Hydrocarbons R&D, Dow, Inc.

**Sherrika Sanders, Ph.D.**  
Director of Product Technology, Manner Polymers

**Saurav Sengupta, Ph.D.**  
Dow, Inc.

**Laura Shereda, Ph.D.**  
Polymer Scientist, Asahi Kasei Plastics

**Matt Urfali**  
Global VP of Sales & Marketing, DuPont™ Tedlar®

**Keisha Walters, Ph.D., FSPE**  
Department Head of Chemical Engineering,  
University of Arkansas

**Steve Zamprelli**  
Vice President, Product Development, Formed Plastics, Inc.

### A Message from the Chair



It has been another record year of awarding scholarships to the future leaders of our industry. To our scholars: congratulations. To our donors: thank you for fueling this vital pillar of workforce development.

My passion for this work stems from a simple belief: we must show the next generation that plastics are the building blocks of modern innovation. Whether through PlastiVan inspiring K-12 students or grants that put 3D printers into classrooms, we are teaching youth that they can create solutions far beyond the traditional limits of wood or metal. As one prospective donor recently noted, the excitement comes when students realize they can “make anything” with polymers.

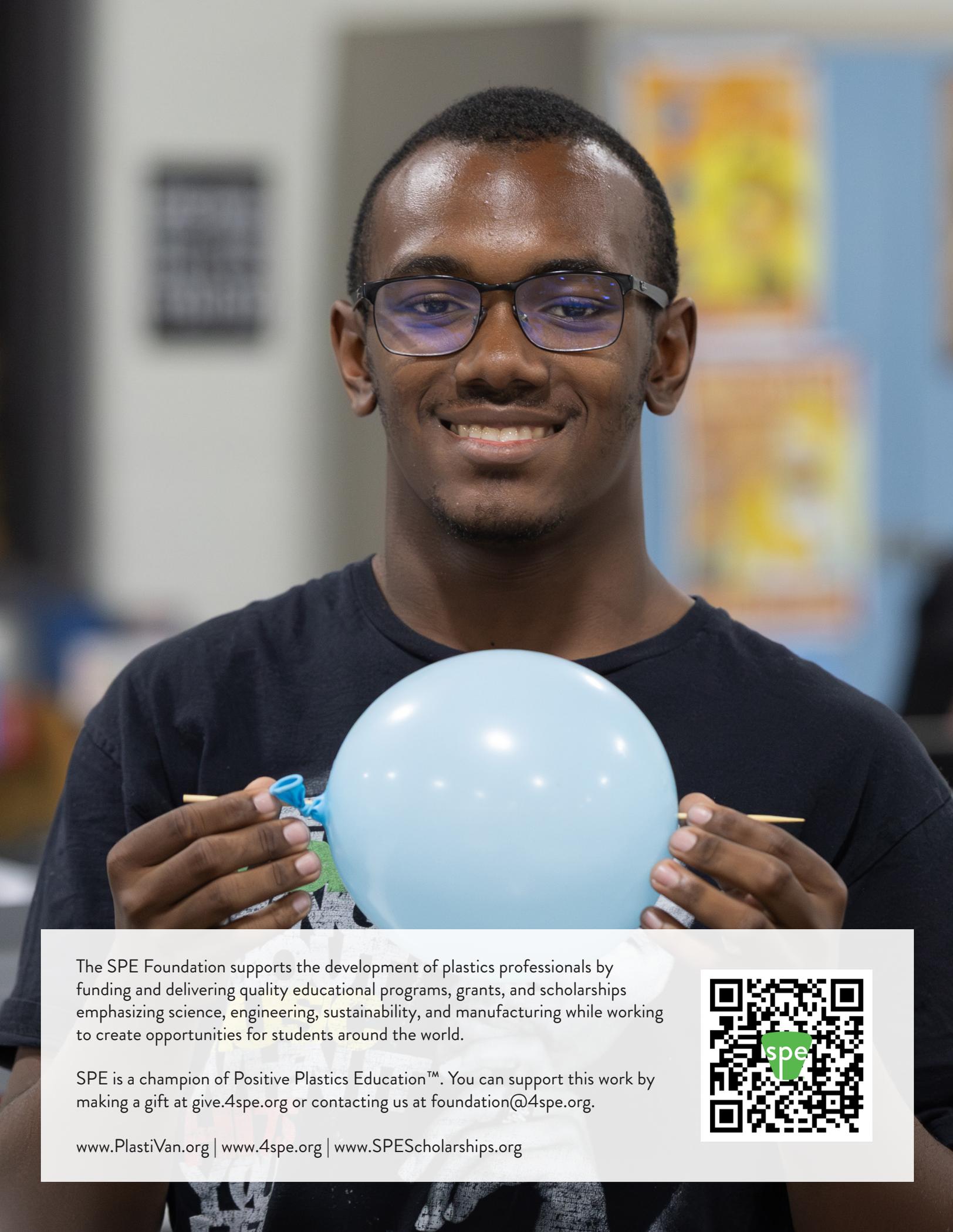
To truly move the needle, we need every professional and company to step up. I've said it at our Ambassador Giving Society ceremonies and on every Giving Day: involvement matters. **Even a small contribution from the “collective many” creates the resources needed to expand our reach.**

The merger of SPE and the Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS) marks a historic turning point. By combining our outreach and influence, we are reshaping the Foundation into a global powerhouse for education.

Don't wait to do your part. **Our industry's future depends on the seeds we plant today.** Please, get involved!

Matthew Harthcock, Ph.D.  
SPE Foundation Chair

SERVING OUR INDUSTRY



The SPE Foundation supports the development of plastics professionals by funding and delivering quality educational programs, grants, and scholarships emphasizing science, engineering, sustainability, and manufacturing while working to create opportunities for students around the world.

SPE is a champion of Positive Plastics Education™. You can support this work by making a gift at [give.4spe.org](https://give.4spe.org) or contacting us at [foundation@4spe.org](mailto:foundation@4spe.org).

[www.PlastiVan.org](https://www.PlastiVan.org) | [www.4spe.org](https://www.4spe.org) | [www.SPEScholarships.org](https://www.SPEScholarships.org)

