





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,

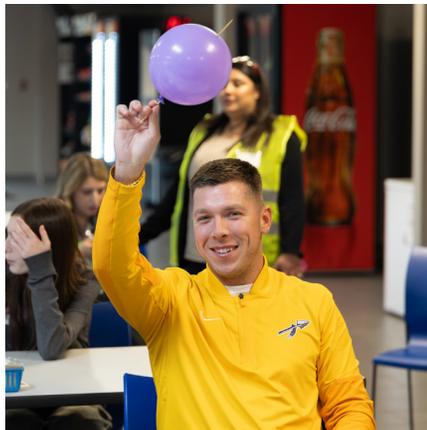
Eve Vitale

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.

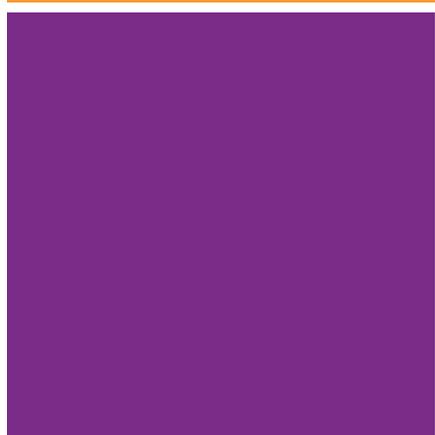
The year 2025 marks a pivotal chapter. Our new partnership with PLASTICS creates unprecedented opportunities to expand our reach and influence. Workforce development remains a critical challenge, and both SPE and PLASTICS recognize our shared responsibility—and the opportunity—to nurture talent early. 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

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.

YOUR WORK MATTERS

SPE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIPS

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

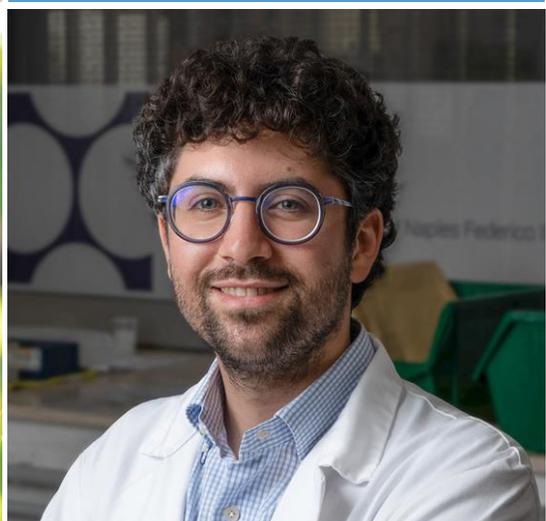
ALPS Inspection
Brightmark
Chicago S.P.E. Educational Foundation
Dr. Matthew & Mrs. Patricia Harthcock
Dupont™ Tedlar®
John Haas
MasterGraphics
Plastics Pioneers Association
PlastChicks
Plastics Hall of Fame
Underground Devices, Inc.
Western Plastics Pioneers

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

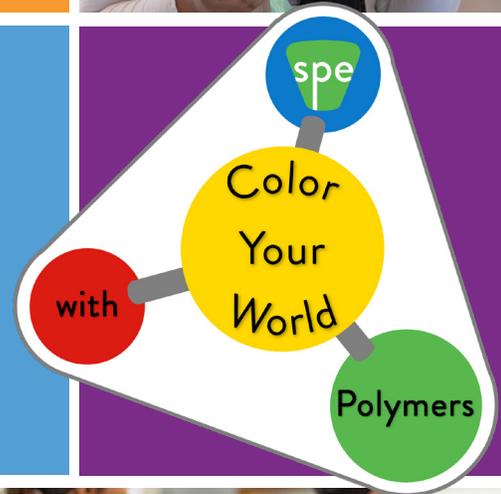


EMPOWERING FUTURE LEADERS IN STEM THROUGH POSITIVE PLASTICS EDUCATION

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.

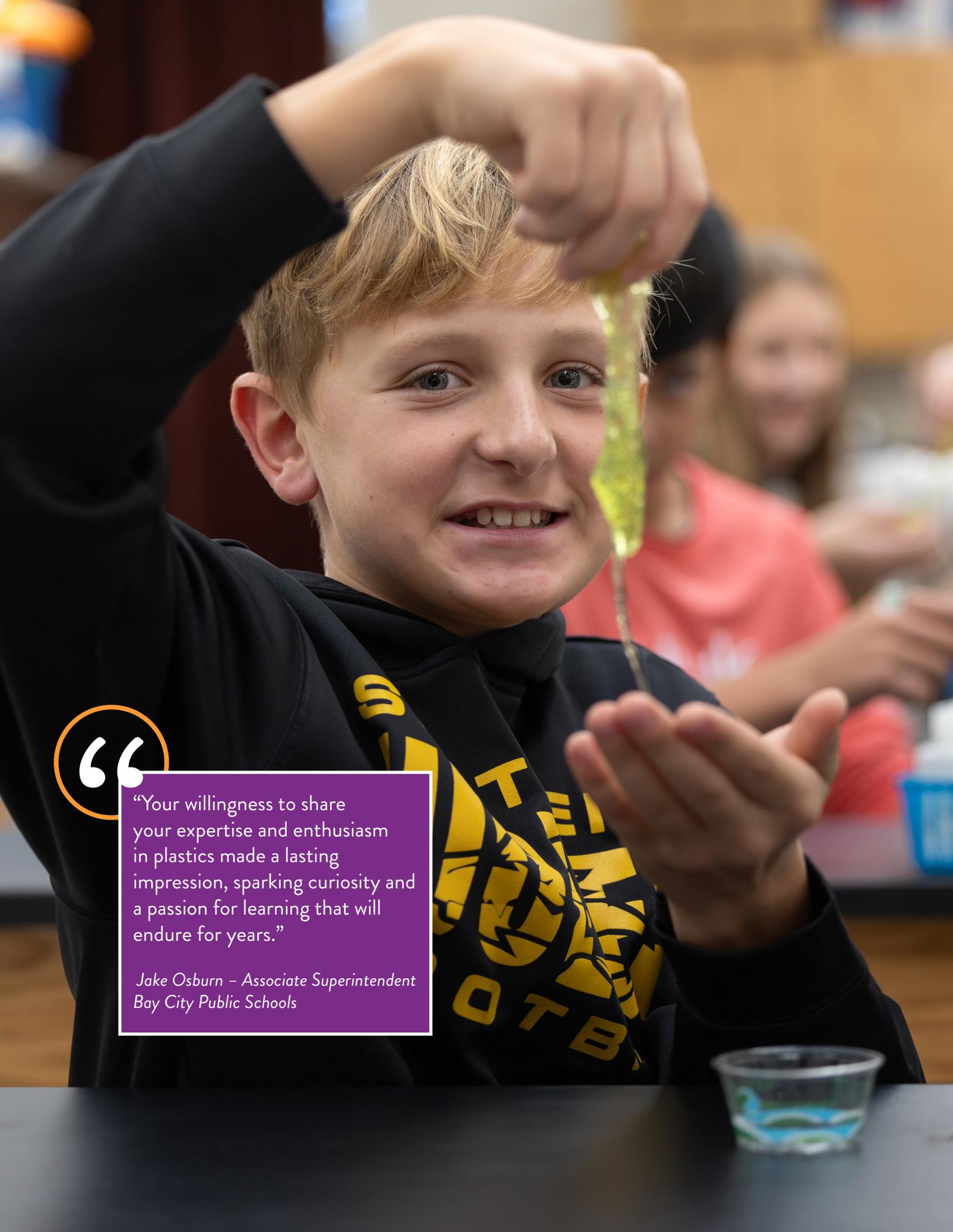
Congratulations to Claire Costello!

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

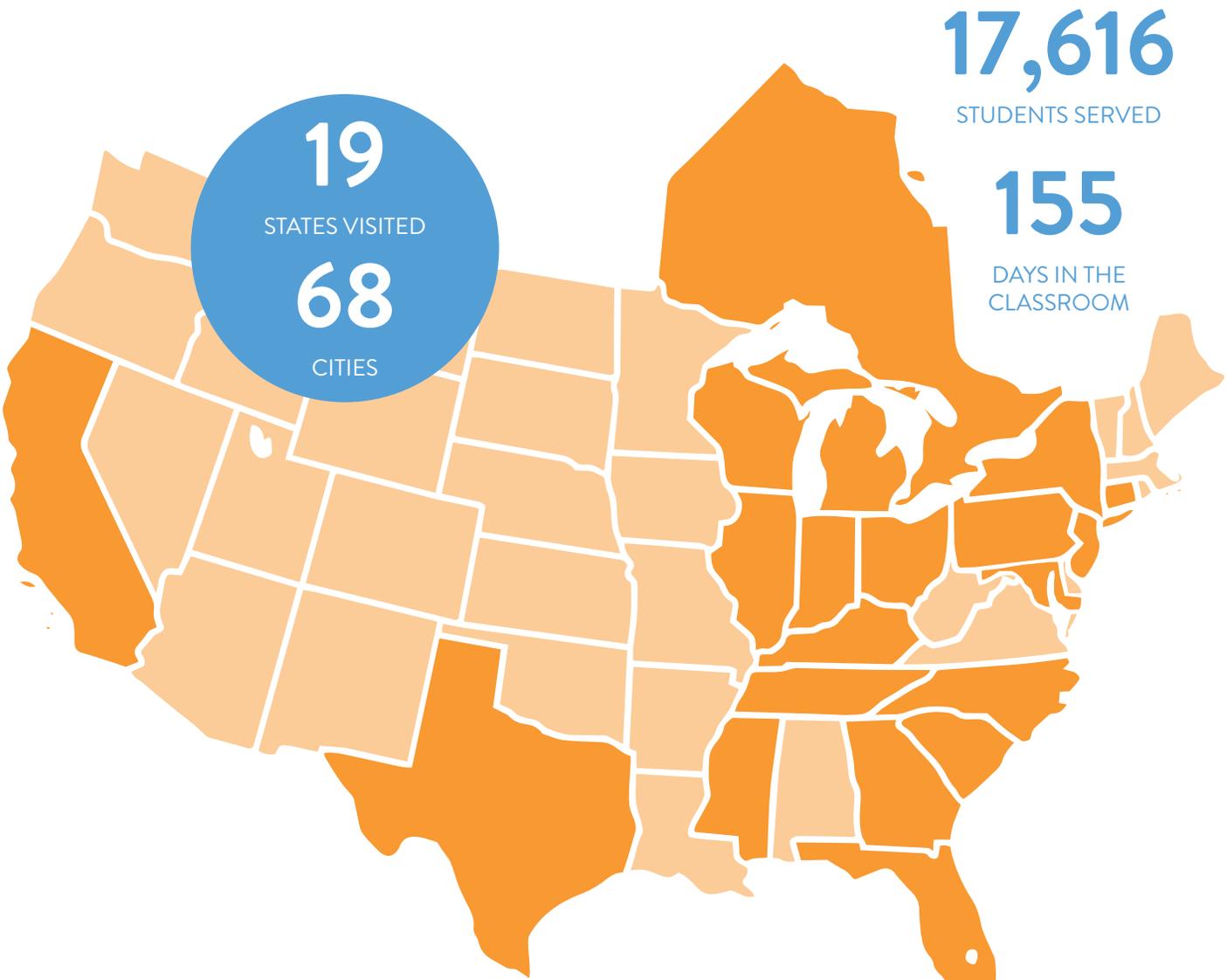
SPE NW Pennsylvania Section

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.

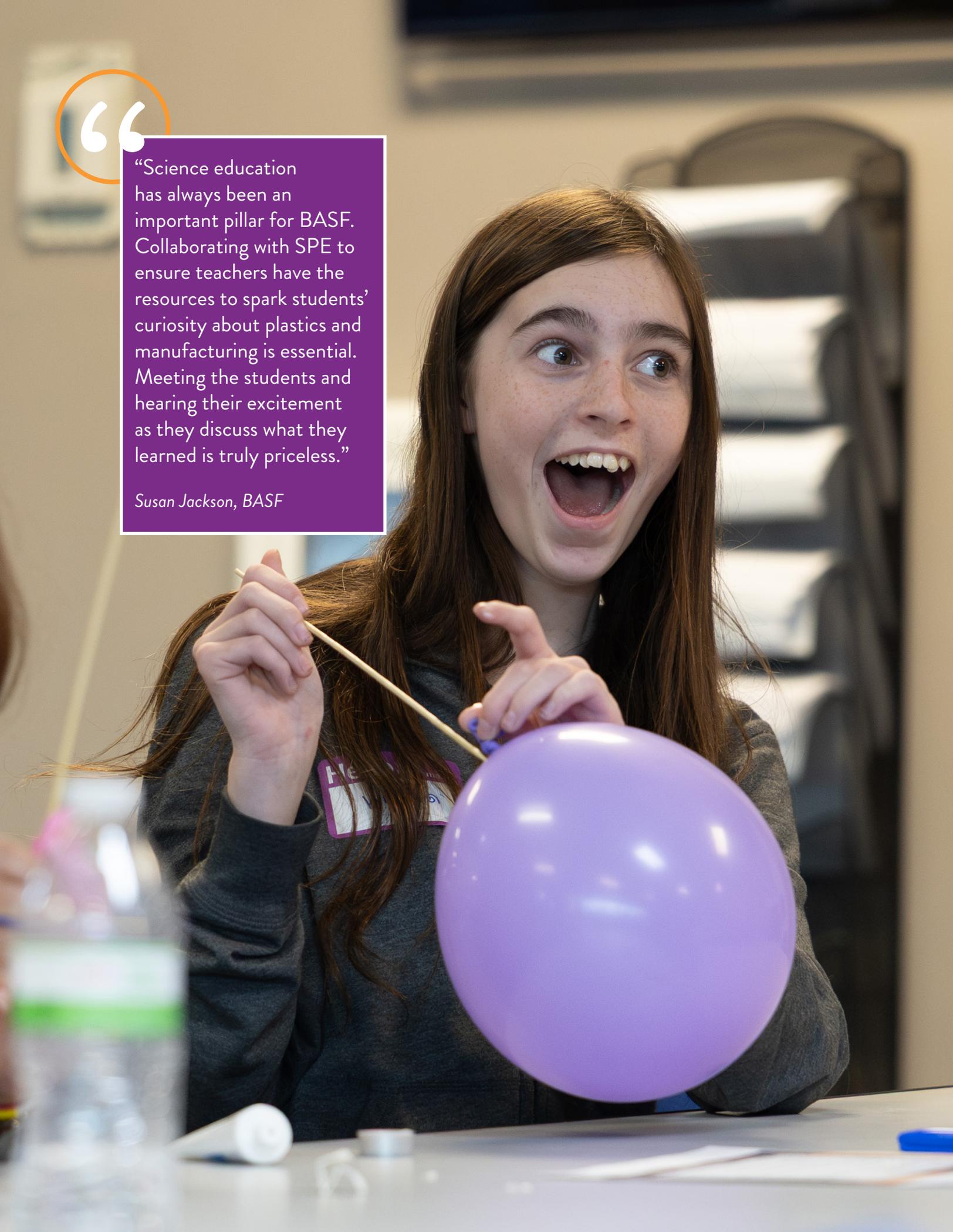
Ampacet supported Positive Plastics Education™ for the third year in a row with a \$10,000 gift.

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

“

“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.



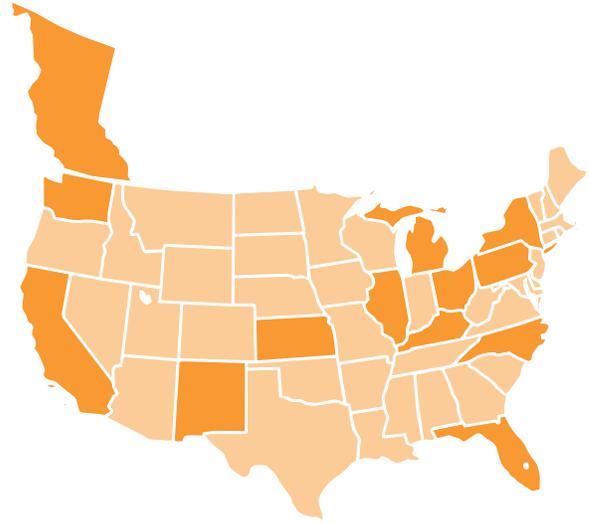
15

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

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 +



PATRON LEVEL

\$10,000-\$24,999

Greg & Nancy Adams
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

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

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

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

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.

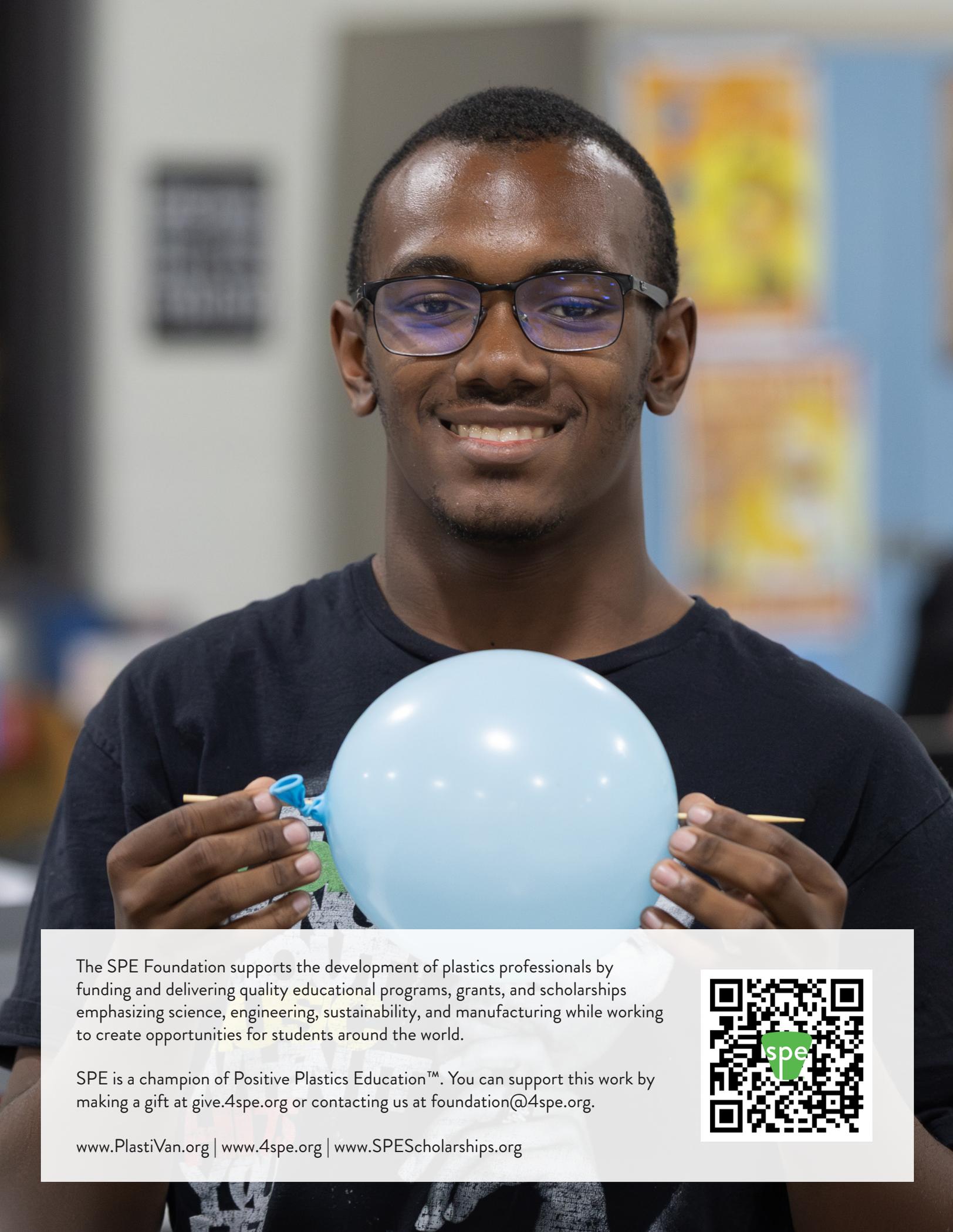
To truly move the needle, we need every professional and company to step up. I've said it at our Ambassador Giving Society ceremonies and on every Giving Day: involvement matters. **Even a small contribution from the “collective many” creates the resources needed to expand our reach.**

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 or contacting us at foundation@4spe.org.

www.PlastiVan.org | www.4spe.org | www.SPEScholarships.org

