



## 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Automotive TPO Conference Scholarship Application Information

Since 1998, the Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE®), leading global OEMs and Tier Suppliers, as well as the TPO supply chain have pooled their resources to create the **SPE® Automotive TPO Engineered Polyolefins Global Conference**, a dynamic, interactive, and cost-effective learning experience. The show highlights the importance of rigid and flexible polyolefins (TPOs) as well as a growing range of thermoplastic elastomers (TPEs) and thermoplastic vulcanizates (TPVs) throughout the automobile and in other forms of ground transportation.

The event has become the **world's leading automotive polyolefins forum** and typically draws over 600 key decision makers and some of the world's foremost authorities on transportation polyolefin applications, economics, and market trends. As such, it provides excellent networking opportunities with key members of the automotive TPO, TPE, & TPV supply chain, and the opportunity to learn about designing lighter, less costly automotive components using the latest technologies and applications for these versatile materials.

For many years now, the Conference Committee has set aside a yearly scholarship fund from the Conference's proceeds for applicants that are graduate students attending an approved college or university. The amount of the scholarship fund ranges from \$2,500 to \$5,000. It is awarded to candidates doing undergraduate/graduate research work on an independent project featuring rigid or flexible polyolefins (TPOs). The development work may involve TPO materials development, processing, painting, additives to enhance properties, bonding of TPO materials or any related studies involving TPO.

Student candidates interested in applying for our scholarship should fill out the application form on the next page and submit a one-page description of the proposed work, expected results and candidate's credentials. All applicants must be in good standing with their colleges or universities at the time they apply for the scholarship.

Deadline for applying is **August 11, 2024**. It should be sent via e-mail to Karen Rhodes-Parker, SPE Detroit Section Administrative Assistant (Email: [Karen@auto-tpo.com](mailto:Karen@auto-tpo.com) and Phone Number: (248-244-8993). Final selection of the winner(s) will be decided after each finalist's scheduled 20-minute presentation via video conference during the month of **September 2024**. Once confirmed, the scholarship winner(s) are expected to write a paper (research report) and publish their findings at the 2025 SPE Automotive TPO Global conference.

### Application Criteria

1. Applicants must be full-time graduate students currently enrolled in a graduate program at an accredited college or university doing graduate or undergraduate research work on an independent project featuring rigid or flexible polyolefins (TPOs). Applicants must also be in good academic standing with their school at the time they apply.
2. Applicants must be engaged in a Bachelor's, Master's or Doctoral thesis or other research that involves TPO materials development, processing, painting, additives to enhance properties, bonding of TPO materials or any related studies involving TPO.
3. Applicants should submit the application form (below), a 1-page description of their research project and a Resume/curriculum vitae (CV) of their background.
4. Finalists should plan to submit a research report to the committee by **August 11, 2024** along with a PowerPoint presentation for review by **September 1, 2024**. The winner(s) are then expected to attend the 2024 SPE TPO conference to present their findings to conference attendees.

## 2024 SPE TPO Automotive Scholarship Application Form

Name of Applicant:  
(Family Name) (First Name)

College / University Attending in 2024-2025 \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address at School (include Street or Dorm Room/Add a permanent address if it differs from temporary/school address)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

During 2024-2025, Applicant is:  Undergraduate Student  Graduate Student

Current Course of Study: \_\_\_\_\_ Target Graduation Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Projected Degree: \_\_\_\_\_ Previous Degrees Held (indicate degree, year, & issuing school):

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name & Contact Information for Academic Advisor on Research Project:

\_\_\_\_\_

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Briefly Describe Proposed Rigid or Flexible Polyolefin (TPOs) Research Topic: (or attach documentation)

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**\*Please** enclose this form (**filled out**) along with a letter of recommendation **from the Academic Advisor who will oversee's your research** and a 1-page overview of your proposed research topic.

**\*All 3 documents (this form, reference, and research proposal) should be e-mailed to: [Karen@auto-tpo.com](mailto:Karen@auto-tpo.com)**

**\*Paperwork must be received no later than August 11, 2024 to be considered for the 2024-2025 academic year**