NWPA SPE serving Northwestern Pennsylvania since 1945

NORTHWEST PENNSYLVANIA SECTION

THE PRESS

Fall 2026 Newsletter

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NWPA SPE Student Chapter with President Young

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



As we move through another year of innovation and change in the plastics industry, I am continually reminded of the strength of our Northwest Pennsylvania SPE community. Our region has long been recognized as a center for plastics manufacturing, processing, tooling, and education, and the dedication of our members continues to drive that legacy forward.

The plastics industry is facing both challenges and opportunities. Advances in automation, sustainability initiatives, material development, and workforce needs are reshaping the way we operate and compete. These changes reinforce the importance of professional organizations like SPE, where industry professionals, educators, students, and suppliers can come together to share knowledge, develop skills, and build valuable connections.

I would like to thank our members, volunteers, sponsors, and board members for their continued support of the Northwest Pennsylvania Section. Your participation makes our programming possible and helps us fulfill our mission of advancing plastics knowledge and professional development throughout our region.

One of our greatest responsibilities is supporting the next generation of plastics professionals. Through partnerships with local manufacturers, educational institutions, and student chapters, we are helping students discover rewarding careers in plastics engineering, manufacturing, and technology. Their enthusiasm and fresh perspectives are essential to the future of our industry.

As we look ahead, I encourage each member to become actively involved in our section. Attend a meeting, participate in an event, share your expertise, or invite a colleague to join SPE. The strength of our organization depends on the engagement and collaboration of its members. We are currently planning a social on December 7th and we hope you can attend.

On behalf of the Northwest Pennsylvania Section Board of Directors, thank you for your continued commitment to SPE and to the advancement of our industry. I look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working together to ensure a vibrant future for plastics in our region.

Sincerely,

Brian Young

President, Northwest Pennsylvania Section SPE

SPE SECTION NEWS AND UPDATES

The 2026 Golf outing, which is our only fundraiser for the year, raised almost $15,000. Funds are used for operating costs, subsidizing section events, Plastivan and educational programs, supporting the student chapter and scholarships. This fall we made another substantial payment on our endowed scholarship with the National SPE Foundation. Once fully funded this will be our third endowed scholarship and will pay out to students in perpetuity.

Our section offers many scholarships, including one for member's children, no matter what they study. We encourage you to take advantage of this member benefit!



NWPA SPE LEADERSHIP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

These are the NWPA SPE members that steer your chapter. Please consider joining them to keep the chapter moving forward, explore more technical opportunities, revitalize the section and decide where to support the future of our industry.

7/1/2026-12/31/2026 NWPA SPE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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If you are interested in joining the Board to have an input on the direction of our Section, please contact any member listed here directly.

NWPA SPE STUDENT CHAPTER PLASTICS CLUB



Behrend PLET students and staff at the AMI Plastics World Expo in Cleveland OH on November 11-12.



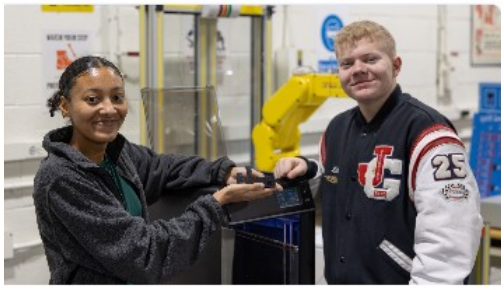
NWPA SPE Section 12 Scholarship

In 2025, the NWPA SPE Board of Directors created an endowed scholarship with National SPE. Once it reaches it's full balance, it will pay out scholarships to students studying plastics, preferentially at Penn State Behrend. You can add your support to the scholarship via the donation site at 4spe.org.



Support Local Students

Your gift stays right here in Northwestern Pennsylvania to impact local students with plastics industry career goals.



Make a Difference

Gifts large and small can help the SPE Northwestern Pennsylvania Section create a scholarship for future plastics professionals.



Impact the Future

Join us as we work toward creating a scholarship endowment to impact generations of students!

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITY

NWPA SPE is offering our membership the opportunity to access student research at no cost. Behrend Senior Research Projects are designed to give upper-class students 12-18 months to research a topic of interest to your company. The timeline typically includes a 3-semester progression where students will perform a literature review relevant to their project topic, perform design and testing, and compile a final report. The students interface with project sponsors at whatever level is required, generally via regular meetings. Sponsoring a senior design project is a low-cost and low risk way to investigate those back-burner projects you never seem to have the time or resources to get done.

NWPA SPE will fund up to three research projects for our members to work with Plastics Engineering Technology students at Penn State Behrend. Projects can be in any plastics related area such as materials, processing, design, compounding, product development and more.

All submissions must be submitted by a member of the NWPA Section of SPE who is going to act as the primary contact. Project Sponsors are responsible for providing detailed instruction on expectations and deliverables and provide regular feedback and guidance to their student group. Senior project applications normally have a fee assessed with them. However, for the three winning SPE member projects , NWPA SPE will pay the application fee. NWPA SPE will not cover the NDA fee for sponsored projects. To apply, submit a brief outline/proposal of your project idea to nwpa.spe@gmail.com, along with your contact information.

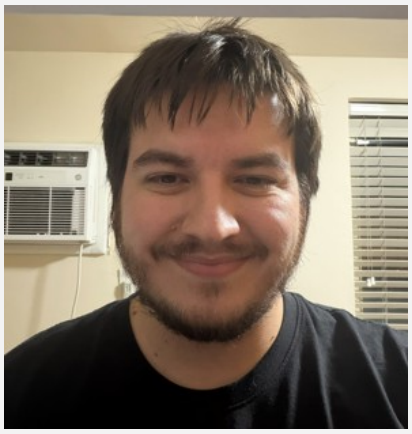
NWPA SPE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

2026 NWPA SPE & PLASTICS ALUMNI TRUSTEE SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Adam Ozegovich from Irwin PA was awarded this scholarship in his senior year at Behrend. He was a member of the student chapter of SPE.

Faith Morelli is from West Middlesex PA. At Behrend she completed a project on Plastic Sheet Forming over Expanded Polypropylene.



Trent Bruton was awarded this scholarship as a senior in the PLET Program and has since accepted a position with Drug Plastics company. He is from Elizabethtown PA.. Receiving the SPE Trustee scholarship lifted a financial weight off my shoulders last semester. Instead of picking up extra hours at work, I was able to focus on my PLET coursework and be more productive towards my senior capstone project. Thank you to the donors who

2026 NWPA SPE SECTION & MEMBER SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

Our Section Scholarship closed on June 30th. We had one applicant, Xiomeilis Walton-Garcia of Meadville, PA. She is a 2026 graduate of Cathedral Prep. She will be going to Drexel to study Chemical and Materials Engineering with a goal to “help find new ways to manage materials and promote sustainability”.

Our Member Scholarship closed on June 30th. We had one applicant, Adam J. Evans of Conneautville, PA. AJ’s father is John Evans, a longtime SPE member. AJ is a 2025 graduate of Conneaut Area Senior High School and currently attends Penn West Clarion University where he studies Education (Early Childhood and Special Education).

SPE COUNCIL ACTIVITY

INSPIRING PLASTICS PROFESSIONALS

Meeting of SPE Councilors and Chapter Leaders

Meeting Summary | October 6, 2026

Virtual meeting was hosted by Lynzie Nebel, SPE Executive Committee Chair, and Patrick Farrey, SPE Chief Staff Executive.

Opening and Integration Update

Farrey opened the meeting, reviewed antitrust guidelines, and advised participants that the call was being recorded for preparation of meeting notes. The meeting had been rescheduled from September 18th.

Nebel reported that the Asset Transfer Agreement between SPE and PLASTICS was signed on October 1, 2026, one year to the day after the signing of the Letter of Intent. Integration work has progressed with minimal disruption to SPE programs and chapter activities. PLASTICS continues to recognize the value of SPE's brand and technical expertise. Approval of the proposal to add "educate" to the PLASTICS mission statement is expected in early November.

Member research and ongoing feedback are guiding four priorities: education and training, events, membership, and the Foundation. Members emphasized a unified industry voice, broader connections, integrated technical and business resources, and coordinated events.

Chapter Rosters and Governance

Chapter leaders were urged to submit current leadership rosters and verify their listings at www.4spe.org/chapters. Farrey emphasized that current rosters are necessary for coverage under the organization's directors' and officers' insurance policies.

Education and Training

A coordinated education team and learning management system are being developed to organize live and online programming into six pathways: fundamentals, technical, operations, leadership, sustainability, and policy. Existing content is being inventoried and organized; initial pilots are underway. The goal is to expand member value and education revenue.

SPE COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Farrey committed to involving chapters and internal subject matter experts more deliberately in program development. Chapter conference content may support additional learning tracks and revenue-sharing opportunities. For partnered webinars, headquarters can manage logistics while chapters provide technical content, using a 50/50 partnership model. Interested chapters should contact Chris Barry.

In response to questions about academic partnerships, Farrey reported plans to convene representatives of plastics and polymer academic programs to explore collaboration, including revenue sharing and content ownership.

Events Strategy

ANTEC® will be co-located with NPE in 2027. Beginning in 2028, ANTEC® and the National Plastics Conference will be combined into one flagship event, bringing technical and business programming together. Mid-March 2028 is targeted; sourcing and contract negotiations are underway.

VinylTec will join Vinyl Week in late October 2027 in Fort Myers, Florida. The collaboration was presented as a model for combining complementary audiences and content while reducing duplicated costs and logistics. Other chapters interested in joint programs should contact Farrey or Barry for introductions to relevant PLASTICS groups.

Live simulcasts are not planned for the flagship events. Staff are exploring ways to capture and repurpose conference content for later online learning. ANTEC/NPE scheduling will include breaks in education programming to allow attendees time on the show floor.

Membership

Standalone SPE individual membership and PLASTICS corporate membership will continue. Selected PLASTICS market intelligence and SPE technical resources will begin to be shared in 2026.

A pilot beginning in the first quarter of 2027 will allocate SPE memberships to employees of PLASTICS member companies based on company size. Results will inform broader implementation in 2028 and associated dues changes. McKinley Advisors is validating the model and financial assumptions; a final recommendation is planned for Board consideration in March 2027.

SPE COUNCIL ACTIVITY

Foundation

A committee is being assembled to develop the combined foundation's name, mission, vision, and structure, building on the SPE Foundation and Future of Plastics Foundation. The concepts shown in the presentation are preliminary. Interested contributors should contact Farrey.

SPE at NPE 2027

NPE registration is open, and the show floor is approximately 90% sold. ANTEC will be included in the Expo+ education program.

Plans include a chapter showcase with small displays at no exhibit charge, a chapter meeting room, a proposed stage for brief chapter awards presentations, a student poster reception, and student/exhibitor activities. Additional opportunities include Sustainability Park and the Future Workforce Pavilion. Space assignments and some program details remain subject to change; reservation and participation instructions will follow.

Awards and Elections

Honored Service Member and Fellows program documents have been updated, and committees are seated. Dr. Praveen Boopalachandran is the Board champion for both programs; Donna Davis chairs the HSM committee, and Dr. Carol Barry chairs the Fellows committee.

HSM nominations are open, with a tentative November 15 deadline. Staff clarified that the Fellows nomination call would begin October 6, with a tentative December 15 deadline. Award ceremony arrangements remain to be determined.

Four positions will be open for election. Dr. Scott Eastman chairs the Nominating Committee. The nomination call is expected around October 10, with nominations due around November 15 and an election planned around December 1. New terms begin January 1, 2027. Dates will be confirmed in official communications.

Follow-Up and Closing

Farrey will distribute the slides, clarify NPE hotel arrangements, share the independent article about the merger, and respond to remaining chat questions. A new "Lunch with Lynzie" schedule will provide additional opportunities for discussion; leaders were encouraged to participate in Leadership Lane on SPE Communities.

Chapter leaders should verify rosters, strengthen chapter membership messaging, and contact staff about education partnerships, event collaboration, or foundation committee participation. Nebel and Farrey thanked participants for their contributions and closed the meeting. No motions or votes were recorded.

THANK YOU TO OUR GOLF OUTING SPONSORS!!

The 2026 Golf outing, which is our only fundraiser for the year, raised almost $15,000. We could not continue to operate without this and we truly appreciate each and every one of you!!

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Polymer System Solutions
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