SUMMER 2025

MOLD TECHNOLOGIES DIVISION

FORM YOUR FUTURE

SPE Center for Polymer Education

SPE Center for Polymer Education offers a range of courses and workshops to enhance the expertise of plastics industry professionals. Our upcoming courses and workshops, available both in-person and online, cover diverse topics to meet the varied needs of our members. Explore our offerings to find programs that align with your career objectives.

Core Back Foam Injection Molding: A Design and Engineering Guide for Lightweighting

Start Date: September 2, 2025

Instructor: Anil Tiwari

Level: Intermediate

Total Sessions: 1 -- Total Hours: 1 -- Online

Injection Molds: Challenges and Opportunities in Conventional and Emerging Technologies

Start Date: September 16, 2025

Instructor: Glen Mason

Level: Intermediate

Total Sessions: 4 -- Total Hours: 6 -- Online

Safely Navigating Innovative Successful Cooling Strategies in Plastic Injection Molding

Start Date: On-Demand

Instructor: Various

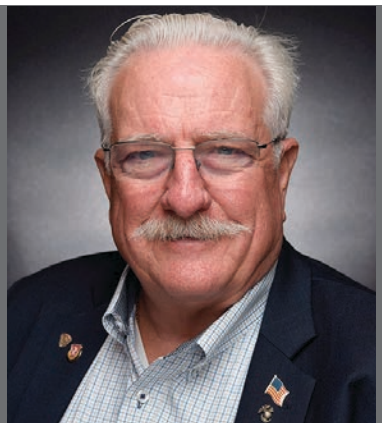
Level: Intermediate

Total Sessions: 1 -- Total Hours: 1 --

Check out the SPE Center for Polymer Education on the SPE WEBSITE

Click the LEARN FROM EXPERTS SECTION on the Home Page and see the number of educational topics available to SPE members. Podcasts, the Event Calendar, the SPE Library and Journals, the Materials Database, and Routsis Training.

Message From The Chair



Division Chair Message – SUMMER 2025

It is hard to believe that we are now at the end of the 2024-2025 operational year for the division. It seems like a week ago we were setting up for ANTEC in Philadelphia, followed by PTXPO in Rosemont, Illinois. Yet here we are at the end of the second quarter, and so much has happened at the Mold Technologies Division.

One of the troubles with a busy period for the division means you must endure a longer message from me, and "being a dyed-in-the-wool preacher," I have a hard time turning off the words and letting things speak for themselves. But we all need to know what's happened recently and how things are shaping up for the days, weeks, and months to come in the next fiscal year. So here it goes!

I want to take a moment to celebrate our successes of the past year accomplished with outstanding teamwork.

Our **Immediate Past Technical Program Chair, Davide Masato of UMass Lowell**, put together a highly successful ANTEC Program. For those new to SPE, ANTEC is an acrostic for the Annual Technical Conference. It had been many years since our division had a paper accepted, let alone a half-day session during the conference. With Davide's leadership, we accomplished just that.

Incoming Technical Program Chair, Peng Gao of Western Washington University, served as moderator/master of ceremonies and did an excellent job of keeping the program moving forward. Peng will have a "Call for Papers" later in this edition of the newsletter—remember, TIME IS SHORT towards presenting your peer-reviewed work for publication and presentation at ANTEC, the foremost conference of the plastics industry.

Our **Education Chair, Joe Karpinski of Adler/Rapid Mold Tooling Solutions**, solicited scholarship and grant applications from around the world. We were able to fund several in 2024 and have many more for the coming year. It is clear with Joe's effort and your support, our division can do greater things in supporting higher education and apprenticeship training.

The Mold Technologies Division presented four international award presentations, including our second Apprentice of the Year. Additionally, we made the first-ever presentation during the PTXPO. More on this in the upcoming Awards Chair Report. Look for a detailed introduction of each recipient in the pages to follow and be sure to reach out and congratulate them personally on their milestone achievement in their careers and our industry.

Finally, as we look forward to the coming year, I can say that our board functions as a "well-oiled machine." As a manager, it is easy to identify weaknesses and strengths. And sometimes we tend to focus on the former while forgetting the latter. Let me tell you, our team at MTD is fantastic!

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Editor's Commentary

– *Berg's Eye View*

Here we are with our second installment of **Women Making the Mold**, in this, the fabulous Summer Issue of the MTD Newsletter. Certainly, one of the prime motives behind this series is to acknowledge and promote the positive industry impact these women have. It is also our hope that these brief Q&A sessions will inspire the next wave of female engineers to consider how they can help the plastics industry become more progressive, efficient and effective.

As you read each interview, you'll see the common thread - their journeys are their own and their success has been driven by their initiative and attitude, not by their gender. Another common theme is the importance of guidance and mentorship - reminding each of us that our interactions with our new-to-the-industry colleagues can be very influential and even impacting. Never forget to pay forward the value of tribal knowledge and learned perspectives and insights taught to you early in your career development.

If you work with an outstanding woman making / designing the mold, running the mold, or running the shop, please consider submitting her name for our series.

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One of the most important and influential trade events in the plastics industry will be held in Dusseldorf, Germany, this fall. **K2025**, running from October 8th through the 15th, will showcase the latest manufacturing equipment technologies in the plastics industry. Injection molds and molding are one of several proccesses on display and nearly every significant machinery OEM makes it a point to show-off their very best gear - the biggest, the smallest, the fastest, the most accurate... it will all be at K and a visit is worth your while.

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PTXPO may be in the rearview mirror at this point, but I would be remiss in not touting the event a bit. Our last newsletter was published - digitally and in print - to strategically take advantage of the greater distribution the show provided. Held at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois, March 18-20, it was well-attended and provided a good platform to meet with current and prospective customers and supply chain partners.

Representing Dynamic Tool, I found myself in good company - right next door to our SPE MTD booth and that of MoldMaking Technology. As such, I was able to enjoy the company of our neighbors and easily attend the award ceremonies covered by Scott Peters in this very issue. I must say, one of my favorite events was the Honorary Mold Maker Award given to my longtime friend and colleaugue, Christina Fuges. The injection mold building industry is fortunate to have such a dedicated and tireless ambassador for what we do - Thank you, Christina!

John Berg - Dynamic Tool Corporation - MTD Newsletter Editor - john.berg@dyntool.com

Message From The Chair

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Without missing a beat, Peng Gao has taken on the role of Technical Program Chair with the same vigor and vision his predecessor had. Peng also carries the same enthusiasm as the previous membership chair. And Davide, well, he is a fantastic mentor/coach in his new role of immediate past TPC. We will see great things in the coming year for the ANTEC and other programs that our division has plans to implement.

I would be remiss in not saying thank you to a member of our board that has done yeoman's work as the division secretary—Mr. Wes Stevens was present meeting after meeting, taking notes, reviewing and revising as needed, and always on time. He submitted the notes to SPE–HQ, ensuring that as a division we are compliant with the needs of headquarters, and never, not once, has a complaint or negative comment been made about his role. As Wes takes a needed break from service to the division and the board, we say a hearty Thank you, sir, for all that you do and have done. You leave big shoes to fill!

Coming to the new year of 2025-2026 at MTD, and what a year we expect…

Division Secretary –
With Wes taking a sabbatical, Rich Martin has transitioned to the role of division secretary for 2025–2026 operations. We are certain that he will do a great job in the role and won't miss a beat in timely submissions to SPE Headquarters.

Topical Conferencing –
Barbara Arnold-Feret is working on a Topical Mini-Tech. This conference will have a focus on Additive Manufacturing in Mold Making. We are looking to partner with a Local Section to enhance the event. More to come as we navigate busy schedules.

Treasury –
Ron Natale Jr. has stepped into the role of Treasurer after being elected to a 3-year term last month. Ron served his first year as an appointee—Assistant Treasurer—where he and Rich Martin dialed in on the finances of the division. A couple of weeks ago, Ron presented Rich and me a "Budget Proposal" he prepared along with a deep analysis of actions needed to ensure success for the division over the years to come. Here are a couple of the highlights of his work:

First, we have an aggressive goal to increase our membership. Not just adding members to add members, but adding to our network of professionals in the following ways:

- Sharing technical information and assistance related to the Art and Craft of Mold Design and Manufacture
- Creating friendships across the landscape of the Mold Making Industry – we know no national boundaries!
- Aiding and guiding the division in bringing value to our members today and into the future

To that end, please share this newsletter with colleagues that you think would benefit from participating in the SPE and our Mold Technologies Division.

Message From The Chair

(Continued from Page 5)

Second, we have an aggressive goal to increase sponsorship for the newsletter (our lifeblood for scholarships and grants.) The dollars spent on sponsorship are used in various ways through the division. Here are a few ways the sponsorships support:

- $10,000 scholarship funding annually
- $10,000 grant funding annually
- Help participate in trade-related events and exhibitions for further outreach and promotions.

As a sponsor, your participation is noted in the newsletter, highlighted on the banners at trade shows, and greatly appreciated by all our members. Just now, I wish to thank you all for your years of support and look forward to seeing you at the next show!

Educational Activities --
Our Education Chair, Joe Karpinski, is notifying the scholarship recipients and grant recipients of their upcoming funding. Additionally, he is soliciting applications for next year… Over the past 2 years, with Joe's leadership, our division has awarded nearly $20,000.00 in scholarships and grants across the US. We are hoping that we can do more and expand to students, trade schools, and universities around the world in the coming years.

Scholarships aren't just for Baccalaureate Degree Programs. Apprentices seeking to turn their training and related theory courses into an associate's degree or beyond are encouraged to apply. Programs such as CNC Basics or CAD/CAM Engineering, to name a few, are well suited to be supported through the scholarship program. Why not get your apprentices thinking along the lines of further advancement and greater career opportunities through higher education?

If you have a student in your household or know of a student in your neighborhood, why not help them achieve their career goals by suggesting that they apply for one of our scholarships? The process is simple—and the rewards can be life-changing!

Awards --
The Awards Committee is actively soliciting nominations for the four international awards. And have high expectations of great candidates. It is never too early to plan your submission to get it in for consideration…

Well, I think that covers it all for this quarter. As always, we serve at your direction – if you have questions, comments, or suggestions – PLEASE LET ME KNOW!

Until next time – Have a fantastic Summer '25.

See you in September!

Scott Peters
2022-2026 Chair - Mold Technologies Division,
The Society of Plastics Engineers

Meet Moira Mehler, Outside Sales Representative at PCS Company

What drew you to mold making as a Career Choice – how did you get to where you are?

What drew me to mold making was an unexpected but natural progression. I began in accounts payable and, backed by my accounting degrees, focused on numbers and financial detail. But as time went on, my curiosity pushed me beyond the desk - I wanted to understand how everything worked. I learned the entire process: from how products were made to managing inventory, working with suppliers, and understanding true cost structures.

Along the way, I realized the value of building strong relationships - internally with my team and externally with vendors and customers. Those connections opened new doors, and eventually. I transitioned into outside sales for the company. It became more than just a job; it was about being a trusted partner, understanding the full scope of our industry, and helping clients find the right solutions. I've worked at this job for 28 years and I've loved it.

How was it for you, entering a traditionally "Male Dominated" industry in a technical role?

Navigating a male-dominated industry like tool and die wasn't always easy, but I learned early on that I didn't need to be the smartest person in the room - I just needed to stay open-minded, observant, and always willing to learn. I leaned on the strength of my team, trusted their expertise, and made it a point to absorb knowledge from everyone around me, including our customers. That mindset helped me grow, earn respect, and make meaningful contributions, not by trying to outshine others, but by working alongside them.

How has your career choice been rewarding to you? What do you see as a "High Point" in your career?

My career has been incredibly rewarding because I've genuinely loved every role I've taken on. Whether I was managing finances, learning the ins and outs of mold making, or out in the field building customer relationships, I always found purpose and excitement in what I was doing. Going to work never felt like a chore - it was something I looked forward to. Each position taught me something new, challenged me in different ways, and allowed me to grow both personally and professionally. That sense of fulfillment and enjoyment has been the greatest reward of all.

One high point was receiving the Rookie of the Year award at one of my sales meeting in 2019 - I was 55 (hahaha)! It was great to be recognized for my hard work at a new company.

What do you see as the biggest challenge in your career?

One of the harder lessons in my career was learning how to navigate trust in the workplace. In an industry where I was often one of the few women, and where I was still proving myself, it wasn't always easy to know if people were being genuine or simply telling me what they thought I wanted to hear. I had to develop a strong sense of intuition and learn to read between the lines. Over time, I became more confident in asking the right questions, holding people accountable, and building relationships based on mutual respect - not just words. It taught me to trust actions more than promises and to stand firmly in what I know to be true.

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Message From The Education Chair

Division Education Chair Message – JULY 2025

Can you believe that it's July already? The topic for this newsletter revolves around the importance of guidance, mentorship, coaching, and inspiring the next generation of professionals in the trades industry. When I say “importance” I am specifically talking to those individuals that have the knowledge and expertise that needs to be shared throughout the industry. I am confident when I say that ALL of us have benefited from a person, group, or organization that has provided an avenue to grow our professional and personal experiences. Especially, those who can inspire those wanting to set themselves up for a long-standing career. That is what the manufacturing / trades industry has provided for me and many others. It takes reflection and gratitude at many levels. However, at the core of this topic is the simple fact that the next generation needs to have that “light bulb” moment.

My light bulb moment is when I was taking drafting in high school and I could see how my work was translating into a story and then that story became a reality. I have spent over thirty years in the industry and I know for sure that I would have not made it this long without mentorship, coaching, and guidance. Yes, individual passion and effort applies but at the end of the day my survival has hinged on those people, groups, and organizations that have invested in me as an individual. The industry and academia have focused on multiple avenues throughout the years to contribute to that impact. The one take-away is the sooner we can get those “light bulbs” to turn on, the better.

I recently read many articles about mentorship and making that investment in the next generation because those experienced level professional are leaving in masses as the years progress. It is not secret that the workforce as shrunk drastically across the board. However, there is hope and inspiration on the horizon and it is up to us experienced professional to take the bull by the horns. The following is food for thought.

The best way to develop the necessary skills and characteristics in the next generation is through mentorship. Like the relationship between a parent and child, the best mentorships are characterized by mutual respect, trust, shared values, and good communication. Here are some items to think about:

- Assess those being mentored
- Determine required leadership skills and knowledge
- Identify expectations
- Establish a mentorship team
- Schedule opportunities for communication
- Set standards for accountability
- Do not let problems fester.

At the end of the day, taking the time and making that investment will pay dividends. It has proven over and over. Let us never forget that this quote. "I can accept failure. Everyone fails at something. But I cannot accept not trying" (Michael Jordan).

Respectfully,

Joe Karpinski – SPE Mold Technology Division Education Chair

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How has the industry changed during your career?
The Tool & Die industry has evolved dramatically over the past 30 years. When I started, much of the work was manual - blueprints were hand-drawn, machining was more labor-intensive, and experience on the shop floor carried most of the weight.

Today, the industry is driven by technology, CAD/CAM software, CNC machines, automation, and even additive manufacturing have all transformed how we design and build tools. The pace is faster, tolerances are tighter, and customer expectations are higher

At the same time, the workforce has changed - fewer young people are entering the trade, and knowledge transfer has become a growing concern. Despite the challenges, the core values remain: precision, problem-solving, and pride in craftsmanship. Being part of this evolution has been both challenging and exciting.

What do you see as opportunities for other women making the mold?
My advise to any woman thinking about getting into the mold making industries is: *Don't be intimidated*. There is incredible opportunity here for those who are curious, hands-on, and willing to learn. You don't have to know everything on day one - what matters most is your attitude and your willingness to grow. Ask questions, find mentors, and don't be afraid to step into the shop and get involved in the process.

No matter the role or industry, I've learned that any type of hard work pays off. It may not happen overnight, but over time that dedication builds trust, opens doors, and earns respect. Also help each other - there's enough room for all of us to succeed, and lifting each other up creates a stronger, more supportive environment for everyone. Collaboration over competition is how we all move forward.

What is your advice to any young person considering a career in the plastics industry?
I'd tell them to seriously consider a career in the plastics industry - especially if they like working with their hands, solving problems, and seeing real results from their effort. I didn't start out in this field, but once I got involved, I realized how many opportunities it offers. You don't need a fancy degree to get started - just a strong work ethic, a willingness to learn, and some curiosity.

There are so many paths to grow, whether it's through a trade school, an apprenticeship, or learning on the job like I did. It's honest work, it's always evolving, and it can lead to a stable, fulfilling career. Plus, there's something really satisfying about knowing the parts you help create end up in products people use every day.

Meet Hillary Thomas, Strategic Leader at WESTMINSTER TOOL

What drew you to mold making as a Career Choice – how did you get to where you are?
I can't say I was drawn to it as much as it was part of my DNA. My dad started his company in our basement when I was 5 years old. For years the shop operated underneath me daily. At the time I didn't understand or appreciate what he was doing but I loved seeing the metal chips and watching them "make stuff". As I grew up, I became fascinated with manufacturing and understanding how everything is made. With mold-making, I love how the investment into a single tool produces millions of products.

Women Making the Mold

Hillary Thomas

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How was it entering a traditionally "Male Dominated" industry in a technical role?

I've been blessed to be surrounded by men that supported me no different than my male counterparts (including my father and other bosses). With that being said, I generally have to work a little harder to gain respect in a room of customers, vendors or competitors. The key things that have helped me are:

1. Stay true to yourself – Show people you are genuine by not trying to fit the mold of the others in the room. If you don't like golf, don't golf, join for a drink. If you are passionate about your family, share it. People can see through a "front" more than you think and its easy to get caught trying to fit in.

2. Treat others how you want to be treated – If you lead by treating people with respect, they will usually reciprocate it even if it takes a little longer.

3. Be confident in your value – If you don't believe in yourself, how will others? Do the work so you know you deserve a voice in a conversation and can confidently carry out competent discussions.

How has your career choice been rewarding to you? What do you see as a "High Point" in your career?

I love leading by example to show other females how rewarding a career in this industry can be. Since becoming a mom, it also means so much to me to be able to support other women build a robust, rewarding manufacturing career while growing a family.

What do you see as the biggest challenge in your career?

Balancing my love and commitment to being a mom and my company/peers.

How has the industry changed during your career?

This industry taught me there is no such thing as "there". We are always improving and evolving to meet the demands of our customers, environment and families. When I first graduated college I told myself I just had to work hard until I got a certain title or salary. Thankfully this industry taught me there is so much more to a career than that.

What do you see as opportunities for other women making the mold?

Fostering collaboration throughout the entire supply chain to more successfully and efficiently bring products to market.

What is your advice to any young person considering a career in the plastics industry?

Do the work and learn as much as you can so no one can question your value at the table.

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Women Making the Mold

Camille Sackett

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Meet Camille Sackett, Vice President of Sales and Marketing at ACCEDE MOLD & TOOL CO., INC.

What drew you to Mold Making and Mold Design as a Career Choice?

I was drawn to mold making and mold design because of the pace, complexity, and variety of the work. I was introduced to the field through a co-op opportunity at Accede Mold & Tool. After interviewing with Don Hickel, Accede's engineering manager at the time, I quickly realized this was a career where I could apply both creativity and technical skill. What really captured my interest was how relatively quickly projects moved through the shop. My prior co-op experience at Eastman Kodak involved engineering projects that could span several years, or even an entire career!

In mold making, you're working on fast-paced, highly technical tools, often for products that haven't been made before. I loved the challenge of solving problems under pressure. Mold making also gave me exposure to a wide variety of industries and product types, which kept the work interesting and meaningful. Even though most people don't realize what it takes to make the products they use every day, I've always found satisfaction in knowing we help make them possible.

How was it entering a traditionally "Male Dominated" industry in a technical role?

It was difficult, especially entering manufacturing in the early nineties. At that time, it wasn't uncommon to see things in the workplace that would be completely unacceptable today—like men posting calendars and photos of women on their toolboxes. It was awkward and uncomfortable, and as a teenage girl, it was challenging to connect with coworkers who had very different interests and life experiences from mine. Over time, it became easier to build connections, especially as I got older, married, and started a family. That gave me more common ground with many of my colleagues, and the relationships naturally evolved.

One advantage I had was that I came in as a strong student, particularly in math, science, and technology. I was curious, prepared, and eager to contribute. I was fortunate to have highly skilled mentors who were focused on the craft and were willing to invest in my growth. In many cases, being a young woman helped—there was no sense of competition, and many men took on a teaching role. Those early experiences, both the challenges and the support, shaped me and made me committed to fostering a more inclusive environment for others.

How has your career choice been rewarding to you? What do you see as a "High Point" in your career?

This career has been incredibly rewarding because it's never been stagnant. I've had the opportunity to grow with Accede Mold & Tool and work alongside a talented team to solve complex problems and contribute to meaningful work that has a lasting impact. I get to collaborate with passionate people, build strong customer partnerships, and give back through mentorship—which has become one of the most fulfilling parts of my journey.

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CALL FOR PAPERS

spe MOLD TECHNOLOGIES

SPE Annual Technical Conference 2026

Pittsburg, PA / March 9 - 12

Topics include:

- Advances in Conformal Cooling
- Smart Mold and Sensor Integrated Tooling for IOT 4.0 and Beyond
- Surface Engineering and Texturing for Improved Molding Performance
- Mold Technologies for Sustainable, Recycled, and Bio-Resins
- High Performance Materials for Additive Manufacturing Molds
- Rapid Tooling and Proto-typing Methodologies
- Strategies for Mold Maintenance and Mold Life Cycle Extensions
- Technologies for Micro-Molding of Precision Components

And More...

Contact our TPC—Peng Gao, Assistant Professor Engineering and Design

Western Washington University —- Gaop@wwu.edu

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One of the high points of my career was when Accede was named the 2024 Mold Builder of the Year by the American Mold Builders Association. That recognition was especially meaningful because it reflected our team's collective dedication and high standards under the leadership of our president and owner, Roger Fox. It was a proud moment and a reminder of what's possible when a team is fully committed to quality and continuous improvement.

Another personal high point was attending my first NPE. It was eye-opening to see the scale and reach of the plastics industry. But more than the technology, the real highlight was building relationships and finding a sense of community—not just within Accede or the mold making industry, but across the entire plastics industry. That sense of connection continues to be a source of inspiration and energy for me.

What do you see as the biggest challenge in your career?

The biggest challenge in my career has been the commitment to continuous improvement—never becoming complacent. This industry is relentlessly demanding. Every aspect of mold making is complex: designing custom molds for products that may not exist yet, building them to exacting standards, sampling and qualifying them, all under pressure to meet tight lead times and global competition.

Just when something starts to feel familiar, the landscape shifts. Technology advances, customer expectations rise, and new challenges emerge. That's what keeps the work interesting and what drives me to keep learning and growing.

The challenge is also what makes the work fun. Every day brings something new to figure out, and that constant evolution has kept me passionate about this industry.

How has the industry changed during your career?

The industry has changed dramatically since I started. Mold making used to rely heavily on tribal knowledge and manual craftsmanship. Molds were simpler. Today, automation, high-speed precision machining, advanced materials, and sophisticated software and technology are standard. The pace is faster, the expectations are higher, and the work is more complex. Complexity in the old days was figuring out how to be able to make molds with the equipment of the day (the manufacturing processes of the times). As equipment has advanced and accuracy improved, the part geometry and the molds themselves have become more sophisticated. The industry has evolved from single-face molds to cube molds.

I've also seen the culture shift. There's more emphasis now on workforce development, diversity, inclusion, and supporting the people behind the work. It's not just about building molds. It's about building a sustainable, resilient team that can meet the demands of the future. People aren't treated like robots. They're valued as human beings.

What do you see as opportunities for other women making the mold?

There are real opportunities now for women. Not just as secretaries or admins, but in mold design, toolmaking, machining, operations, and leadership. Years ago, women in mold making were primarily polishers with patience and attention to detail. More companies are prioritizing diverse teams, leveraging the natural skill sets that women bring, and industry associations are actively working to elevate women and create meaningful pathways for advancement.

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Women Making the Mold

Camille Sackett

(Continued from Page 13)

Women entering the field today can build on the progress that's already been made. The door is open wider, but it still requires effort, curiosity, mental toughness, and resilience to keep moving forward to seek out and seize those opportunities.

What is your advice to any young person considering a career in the plastics industry?

For young men and young women: Be curious. Work hard. Be prepared to fail, get back up, and try again. This is an industry where learning from your mistakes is essential.

The best way to grow is by gaining hands-on experience, saying yes to challenging projects and assignments, and staying open to the knowledge of the people around you. Seek out mentors who will push you and help you grow within your organization and outside for a fresh perspective. Actively ask for feedback, especially from people you trust to point out your blind spots. That's where real personal and professional development happens.

And with all that accumulated knowledge, think critically and bring your own solutions to the table. Use the confidence you've earned to speak up and contribute.

Don't be afraid to start small. Every assignment and project you take on builds your knowledge and prepares you for the next. There's real pride in seeing a tool you helped create go into production and knowing you played a part in making something people rely on every day.

Our sincere appreciation to our Women Making the Mold participants - your experiences and insights inspire confidence and optimism that our industry, and manufacturing in general, will continue to evolve, improve, and progress!

We encourage our readers to submit our next rounds of female leaders / engineers / mentors / educators - we're working with several candidates for our Fall 2025 Newsletter, and we want more.

Please send your nominations, along with their contact information, to:

John Berg - john.berg@dyntool.com

Scott Peters - scott.peters@moldedmarketing.com

--- NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT ---

In May, we held our elections for the board. And in usual fashion the full ballot was added. Please welcome the following to the leadership of YOUR division:

Gunakar "GK" Golagana – GK Will be working as the Associate Newsletter Editor and Assistant to the Education Committee. His primary focus will be in helping John Berg to keep our division newsletter the award winner it is!

James Jergens – James will be working with the Education and Technical Programming Committees. In the Assistant TPC role, James will be supporting the ANTEC program as well as the Mini-Tech that is in the works – the focus is on Mold Making in an Additive World

Jim Piehl – Jim will be heading up our Membership Committee. New members to the division can expect a welcome letter and those whose memberships may have lapsed will be hearing the "We Miss You" message.

Darryl Gratrix – Darryl is working with our Education and Inter-society Liaison committees. In these roles he is coordinating discussions across the border and the industry towards apprenticeship training and how the SPE Mold Technologies Division can work in concert with other trade related organizations, CAMM (Canadian Association of Mold Makers) in particular.

Professor Peng Gao – Peng was appointed to a 1-year term as the Membership Chair in 2025. Having successfully been elected and showing his dedication through service to the division, Professor Gao will be assuming the role of Technical Program Chair (TPC). In this role Peng will be working alongside James Jergens and his mentor Immediate Past TPC – Professor Davide Masato.

Professor Davide Masato – Davide has served the division as TPC for the past few years. He was a key member of the team responsible for the success of our ANTEC-2025 Session. He will be assuming a "Mentorship" role as Immediate Past TPC with a goal of helping Peng to achieve the same successes of the last ANTEC in the coming years.

Anthony Bubay – Anthony was appointed last year to a one-year term as our Student Liaison. Entering his 4th year at RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology) Anthony plans to further develop the Student Liaison role with activities across schools throughout the nation that have Plastics Engineering Programs.

Ron Natale Jr – Ron was appointed to a 1-year term last year as the Assistant Treasurer of the Division. Under his financial leadership we look forward to Ron's service as the Treasurer.

Barbara Arnold-Feret – Barbara is returning to the role of Division Councilor. In this role, Barbara will be working with the Council of the Whole and Divisions Council ensuring that the operations of the SPE are within the by-laws and provide a secure future for the association and our members. In addition, Barbara is working on a Mini-Tech – exact time and place to be announced.

Please join with the rest of our division leadership in welcoming these new and returning members to the board. We thank them all, in advance, for the service they provide in guiding the activities of the division.

Scott L. Peters - Nominations Chair 2022 - 2026

--- AWARDS REPORT ---

For over 40 years the Mold Technologies Division has presented the Mold Maker of the Year Award. And for over 30 years we have named the Mold Designer of the Year. Well, in 2023 we added the Mold Repair/Maintenance Technician and in 2024 the Apprentice of the Year. And 2025 was no different.

We named the following Over Achievers to their respective groups during PT-XPO 2025. Please meet:

2025 Mold Maker of the Year - Mr. Ed Duignan of Thermo-Fisher Scientific (Rochester, New York)

Ed is a seasoned mold maker with 47 years in the industry. He is state certified by the New York Bureau of Labor and Apprenticeship Standards. His career started as a student at the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) where he honed his related theory skills and engineering acumen. He works as a mentor to apprentice mold makers and repair technicians during the day, readily sharing from his wealth of experiences.

Married for 39 years, Ed and his wife, Trish, have successfully raised two children. During their formative years, Ed served as a Scout Leader in the Rochester Area Boy Scouts of America.

Ed has identified the Monroe/Orleans County Center for Workforce Development – Adult Machining Fundamentals program as the recipient of the HASCO America sponsored $1,000.00 stipend.

Ed Duiganan (left) and Ron Natale Jr. (right)

2025 Mold Designer of the Year - Mr. Jim Fattori of Injection Mold Consulting (Trevose, Pennsylvania)

Jim is a 3rd generation Mold Maker/Molder with a degree in Industrial Engineering from Northeastern University in Boston Mass. He is currently the president and founder of Injection Mold Consulting where he provides engineering support for molds and molding for Large Structural Foam programs down to Small Encapsulation Injection Projects. With 45 years of service in the industry, Jim is a regular contributor to Plastics Technology, Mold Making Technology and other trade related publications.

Jim Fattori

Through Jim's 45 years, he has authored 66 articles and has had his works published over 80 times. His sharing of information has reached and informed thousands of readers globally. Jim exemplifies the character of the Mold Designer of the Year through his open sharing of information and his extensive experience.

Even though Jim holds Master Molder credentials, he is always open to learning a new thing or two from one of his colleagues or mentees.

Jim designated the Chicago TMA (Technology and Manufacturing Association) Related Theory Program as the recipient of his Progressive Components sponsored $1,000.00 stipend.

(Continued on Page 20)

Mold Repair Technician of the Year - Mr. Markus Woeste of Molded Precision Components (Shanty Bay, Ontario)

Markus is a German Transplant to Canada where he makes his home. A 35-year veteran of the Mold Repair and Maintenance segment of our industry, Markus is a key contributor and collaborator in the operations of Molded Precision Components. In addition to his technical acumen, Markus provides the needed attitude of "Reach for the next level of performance" often challenging co-workers to do the same.

Darryl Gratrix (left) and Markus Woeste (right)

In the words of his manager, supporting his nomination: Markus's contributions have been instrumental in the success of MPC's operations. His meticulous repairs have played a critical role in maintaining the quality and consistency of products delivered to customers. By ensuring molds perform at their peak, Markus has helped MPC build a reputation for reliability and excellence in the competitive manufacturing industry.

Markus is the go-to-person when it comes to performing under pressure. He fosters a culture of learning and continuous improvement in the facility.

Markus is the third recipient of this award and the first outside the United States – further driving home the point that these awards are International in nature.

The $1,000.00 stipend sponsored by MoldTrax LLC will be presented to Georgian College – Barrie, Ontario, to support the Mechanical Technician Precision Skills Program.

Apprentice of the Year - Mr. Nick Paxton of Thermo-Fisher Scientific (Rochester, New York)


Scott Peters (left) and Nick Paxton (right)

Nick took his related theory course work at Monroe Community College in the Applied Technology Center. Through his studies and on the job training, Nick maintained a 3.8 GPA. A truly well-rounded Mold Maker, he integrated his theory training with practical applications including Master-CAM™ Programming, Drafting, CNC Milling and Sinker EDM.

He sets the bar high with his innate ability to troubleshoot molds, hydraulics, and hot runners.

Not satisfied with the mechanical aspects of Mold Making, Nick is also CPR and First-Aid Certified. This shows his strong emphasis on ensuring a safe workplace.

Nick completed his apprenticeship in January 2025 with registration in the New York Bureau of Labor and Apprenticeship Standards. His work at Thermo-Fisher Scientific alongside Ed Duignan shows that as an employer the company has a keen interest in training the next generation of Mold Making Professionals.

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--- AWARDS REPORT ---

(Continued from Page 20)

We presented the award to Nick during PT-XPO. He was able to share firsthand in the excitement of the show floor and to join the Division at the social mixer during the evening at Crust Brewing in the adjacent "Entertainment District." This was Nick's, and his girlfriend's, first ever trade related event as a Mold Maker. And by all accounts, it won't be their last!

As an Apprentice Mold Maker, Nick received $500.00 in specialty tools for his toolbox and a $500.00 cash award sponsored by our friends at the PCS Company.

It should be noted that this was the first time that we had a Senior Mold Maker and an Apprentice recognized from the same company and boy can I say that the selections of our Executive Committee were spot-on!

--- Mold Technologies Division names Honorary Mold Maker ---

While the above awards are presented annually, this year we gave special recognition for our great friend of the division and industry, Mrs. Christina Fuges, of Mold Making Technology magazine. Christina serves as the Editorial Director, founder of Ameri Mold Expos, and much, much more.

Christina Fuges and her Gerstner™

To recognize all that Christina has done and continues to do, the division named her "Honorary Mold Maker" and presented her with a Gerstner™ toolbox of her own. Mrs. Fuges has been a stalwart supporter of our industry and division for the past 26 years and has clearly earned her stripes as an "Honorary Mold Maker." Christina served as our Division Secretary for several years in the teen-years of the 2000's and provided editorial guidance as well as written copy in support of the things we do. CONGRATULATIONS CHRISTINA – We cherish your friendship and support more than words can tell!

As you can tell – the PT-XPO is a busy place and having these awards presented during the show made it even more so. If you haven't attended this EXPO, put it on your calendar for 2026. We will be looking for you and making similar presentations.

Here's an idea, why not begin your nominations for the awards and get a head start on 2026 Nominations! It is never too early to start the process and recognize the great things being done by the great people you work alongside of!

Scott L. Peters
Awards Chair 2022 – 2026

Investing in Mold Making's Future

CAMM Secures Strategic Development Fund Grant to Strengthen Ontario's Tooling Sector

The **Canadian Association of Mold Makers (CAMM)** has been awarded a Strategic Development Fund (SDF) grant, marking a significant investment in the future of Ontario's advanced manufacturing sector. This funding, secured through the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation and Trade, is aimed at bolstering local tooling capacity, addressing workforce shortages, and improving global competitiveness.

The SDF grant will support CAMM-led initiatives that include collaborative training programs, industry-led research, and the adoption of advanced technologies such as automation, AI, and digital manufacturing tools. A key focus of the grant is building a stronger talent pipeline by working directly with educators, employers, and government partners to increase skilled trades awareness and hands-on training opportunities for youth.

This milestone reflects CAMM's ongoing commitment to shaping a resilient, future-ready mold making industry in Ontario. With strategic investment and sector-wide collaboration, the SDF grant will help ensure that local manufacturers can compete—and lead—on the global stage.

For mold builders, the message is clear: now is the time to engage, innovate, and invest in the next generation.

https://canadianassociationofmoldmakers.com/

PT-XPO 2025 – It's a wrap!!!

When I think of trade events in the Plastics Industry, I often think of NPE, K-Show, and China-Plas. NOW, I have added PTXPO to that list - and it is for good reason! The great team at Gardner Business Media (Mold Making Technology, Plastics Technology, Modern Machine Shop – to name a few) do such a fantastic job at putting on this show, that it must be classified as a MAJOR TRADE EVENT.

This year, the Mold Technologies Division, as in years past, participated as an exhibitor. I know, I know… you might have seen that elsewhere in the newsletter. However, I wanted to draw your attention to some things that you may not have seen. Those are:

1. We created a "Best Practice" for such festivities. And here is what we did:

- We partnered with the Chicago Section to share booth space, increasing opportunities to network with sections and divisions.
- The team at Gardner allowed us to combine booth space to a 10 x 20, instead of two 10 x 10 spaces giving a larger presence at the show.
- We located as close as possible, right next door, to the team at Mold Making Technology in the heart of the Mold Making Pavilion, allowing us to in teract and broaden relations with the team and participants from throughout the industry.
- We presented our awards at the booth bringing even greater visibility to both the awards and our division / section partnership.

2. We held a Social / Mixer following the awards presentations at a local restaurant, Crust Brewing to be exact, and invited the recipients, the sponsors and show attendees to join us for some relaxed conversations around a beer and some pizza.

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3. We forged new friendships, strengthened old and rekindled some that may have faded from years of distraction. And we did it all in the name of the SPE Mold Technologies Division.

What were the results? Well, let me tell you:

- We gained new division members – two of which serve on our board of directors already
- We set in place the groundwork for greater collaboration between Technical Programming of the Chicago Section and the Mold Technologies Division
- Best of all, we built relationships, kicked back and relaxed sharing stories and memories – hopes and dreams of what the industry can look like in years to come.

The photos and images shown are reminders of what an outstanding event PTXPO was, and they are a precursor to what we hope to see at PTXPO ’26. Most importantly, we hope to include you in the photos and memories made during the next show!

Scott Peters - 2022-2026 Chair - Mold Technologies Division

Congratulations!
Congratulations!
Congratulations!

Joseph Prischak Scholarship Selectees:

Andrew Caswell: Polymer Engineering Technology / Manufacturing Engineering Technology student at PSU Behrend

Mission Statement: After the Plastic and Polymers degree I plan on pursuing a bachelor's in manufacturing. I believe the bachelor's degree will allow me to create more effective and more efficient manufacturing methods at my current employment. The main goal is to be the absolute best in this trade and to ensure Automotive Manufacturing stays in Michigan.

Landon Douvlos: Plastics Engineering Technology student at PSU Behrend

Mission Statement: I enjoy working through problems on the floor, using simulation tools like Moldflow, and applying design knowledge to improve part quality and cycle times. I also like helping classmates with SolidWorks or process setup, and that's something I want to keep doing as I grow in my career.

Joshua Jergens: Polymer Engineering & Science at PSU Behrend

Mission Statement: I am excited to contribute my knowledge, creativity, and passion to this field. I am confident that plastics, when used and managed responsibly, will play a vital role in building a more sustainable world for the future.

Luke Springman: Polymer Engineering Technology student at Pennsylvania College of Technology

Mission Statement: What excites me most about polymers is their limitless potential. In the medical field, plastics are revolutionizing healthcare—think of biocompatible polymers used in prosthetics or drug delivery systems that improve patient outcomes.

Owen Haney: Plastics Engineering Technology student at PSU Behrend

Mission Statement: I think it would be exciting to pursue a career in the plastics industry related to sustainability. I've come to learn that we've come a long way when it comes to the sustainability of plastics, but I believe that there is still more work that can be done pertaining to the subject.

https://www.linkedin.com/company/spe-mold-technologies-division/about/

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2025 Grant Application Mold Technologies Division Selectee:

RECIPIENT PROGRAM:

Molds/Plastics Engineering Program
Western Washington University
Bellingham, Washington
John Misasi – Associate Professor – Program Coordinator

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Tooling Design Projects – Ongoing support to facilitate student design, fabrication and testing of Aluminum Injection Molds for Plastics and Composites Manufacturing

USE OF FUNDING:

Purchase of 6061 aluminum plate stock for 5.5" x 8.0" MUD Unitized Molds and related mild steel support and ejector plates. The division is assisting with the solicitation of "In-Kind" donations in addition to the cash grant funding supporting 2-years of academic projects.

"Thank you to all our Newsletter and Educational Sponsors for your generous support throughout the year. We could not achieve these results without you!"

Executive Committee Members:

Scott Peters – Division Chair - scott.peters@moldedmarketing.com

Wes Stephens – Secretary - w.stephens@omega-tool.com

Rich Martin – Treasurer - rmartin@goconvenio.com

Davide Masato - Technical Program Chair - davide_masato@uml.edu

Joe Karpinski – Education Chair – jkarpinski@adlertooling.com

https://www.linkedin.com/company/spe-mold-technologies-division/about/

Educating the Next Generation of Mold Engineers at UMass Lowell

By Davide Masato, Ph.D.,Associate Professor, Department of Plastics Engineering, UMass Lowell

The Plastics Mold Engineering course at the University of Massachusetts Lowell is a defining element of the undergraduate curriculum in Plastics Engineering. Serving as the culminating ABET-accredited design experience, the course delivers a rigorous and practical foundation in mold design and manufacturing that benefits all plastics engineering students - not just those who intend to become mold designers.

Injection molding remains the dominant manufacturing process for plastic parts across virtually every industry, and mold design is at the heart of it. A strong understanding of how molds are engineered, built, and optimized enhances a student's capabilities in product design, materials selection, process development, and beyond. Whether a graduate goes on to specialize in design, R&D, manufacturing, or quality engineering, the mold engineering experience provides context and insight that carries throughout their career.

A Structured Experiential Course

Plastics Mold Engineering is offered each spring as a required course in the undergraduate Plastics Engineering curriculum at UMass Lowell. The course integrates classroom instruction with hands-on laboratory work to provide students with both the theoretical background and practical skills necessary to design and build injection molds.

The lecture component introduces core topics, including mold construction, gating systems, cavity filling, venting, cooling design, ejection mechanisms, and structural considerations. These concepts are reinforced through engineering calculations and simulation-based analysis.

In parallel, lab sessions guide students through the entire mold development process. Working in teams, students design a plastic part, engineer a mold for it, and complete the whole manufacturing workflow. This includes 3D CAD modeling, process simulation, toolpath programming, CNC machining, mold assembly, and part molding using production-scale equipment.

Each phase of the project is structured to simulate real-world engineering practice. Students must meet technical milestones, present their work during design reviews, and collaborate closely to solve problems and manage timelines effectively. The result is a comprehensive, start-to-finish experience that prepares students to think critically and act confidently in a production environment.

Practical Skills and Lasting Impact

A central feature of the course is the hands-on mold-making experience. After completing mold design and simulations, student teams machine aluminum inserts using a 3-axis CNC milling machine. They generate toolpaths in CAM software using a shared tool library, featuring end mills as small as 1/32 inch and optimize their strategy to balance cut quality and efficiency.

Students then polish the inserts, cut and fit ejector pins using a grinder (purchased in 2019 through a grant from the SPE Mold Technologies Division), and fully assemble the mold with standard components. The completed tools are tested in the university's injection molding lab, providing students with direct feedback on how design and manufacturing choices impact molded part performance.

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Throughout this process, students learn practical, industry-relevant lessons in mold design:

- Tolerancing: Specify tight tolerances only where functionally necessary. Students observe how design and manufacturing complexity rise rapidly due to unnecessarily strict requirements.
- Surface Finish: Relax surface finish specs wherever possible to reduce machining time and tooling wear without sacrificing part function.
- Draft Angles: Incorporate appropriate draft angles early in the design process to ensure easy part ejection and minimize wear on mold surfaces.
- Shut-Off Surfaces: Learn proper machining strategies for shut-offs—ensuring a precise, durable fit and preventing flash—while accounting for tool wear and sealing pressure.
- Geometry Considerations: Eliminate complex curves and external fillets where unnecessary, add large internal radii, and utilize standard hole and thread sizes to simplify tooling.

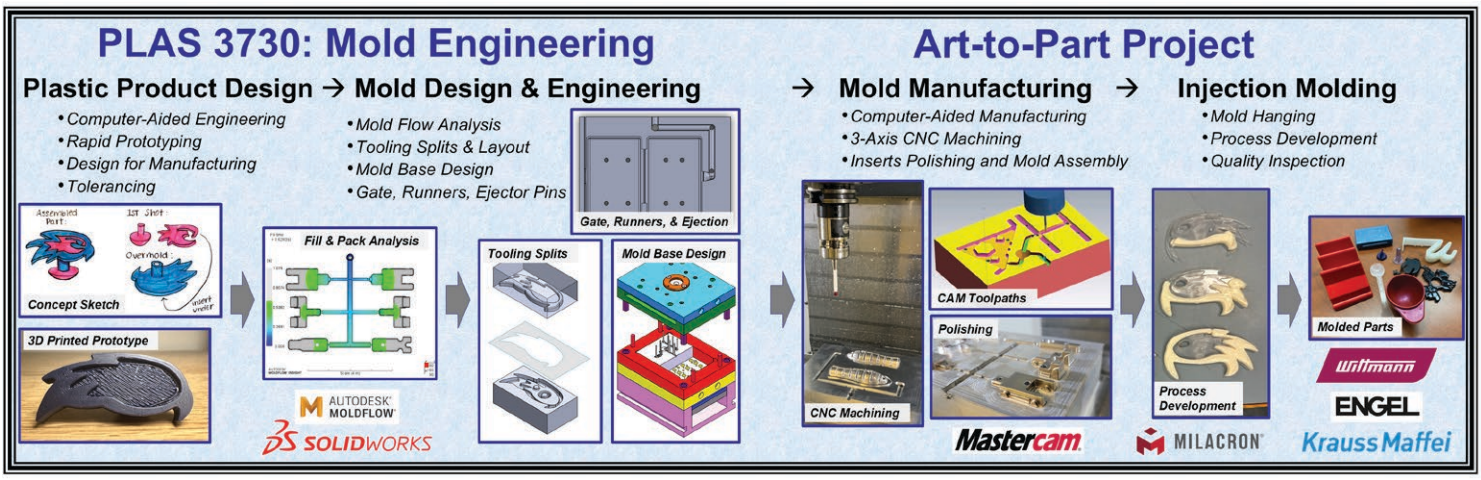
By the end of the course, students gain more than experience—they develop the mindset of mold makers. They learn to evaluate design not only for function but for how efficiently and reliably it can be manufactured, assembled, and maintained.

A Foundation for Every Career Path

While not every plastics engineering student will become a mold designer, every plastics engineer benefits from a deep understanding of how molds influence part quality, processing, and cost. The mold engineering course provides students with a clear understanding of the manufacturing realities and best practices that impact product development decisions.

The lessons learned are relevant across roles in design, processing, quality, and R&D. Students who understand how molds are built and run are better equipped to collaborate with toolmakers, evaluate feasibility, and make informed trade-offs throughout the product lifecycle.

By engaging directly with mold design and fabrication, students develop a well-rounded engineering mindset that serves them in any career path within the plastics industry. The course provides not just technical knowledge but the practical judgment that comes from seeing how real parts are made.



Update on the 2024 SPE Mold Maker of the Year Donation to Western Carolina University – College of Engineering and Technology

Last year, the SPE Mold Maker of the Year 2024 award was presented to Gabe and Holly English of Western Carolina Tool & Mold in Mills River, NC. Sponsored annually by HASCO America, Inc., this award recognizes outstanding contributions to the mold making industry. As part of the recognition, a $1,000 donation is made in the recipient's name to a program or institution of their choosing.

Gabe English emphasized that, "Sometimes it takes time to find the right place to apply a generous donation like this. It took a little longer this time, but it was well worth the effort."

Gabe English - Western Carolina Tool & Mold, Dr. Chip Ferguson - Associate Dean and Professor in the College of Engineering and Technology, Brenda Clark - Engineering Manager / Inside Sales at HASCO AMERICA Inc.

After thoughtful consideration, Western Carolina Tool & Mold selected Western Carolina University (WCU) as the recipient of the donation. Specifically, they nominated Dr. Chip Ferguson, Associate Dean and Professor in the College of Engineering and Technology, to receive and direct the funds. With additional matching support from the Dean of the College, the donation enabled Dr. Ferguson to attend PTXPO 2025 in Chicago, IL.

At PTXPO, Dr. Ferguson engaged with numerous suppliers in the plastics industry and connected with board members of the SPE Mold Technologies Division at the booth. One such connection proved transformational: a representative from Moldex3D North America Inc. later contacted Dr. Ferguson and offered a major in-kind donation of software for WCU's engineering students.

In a formal letter from Anthony Yang, President of Moldex3D North America, the company pledged to provide 60 software licenses a donation valued at over $4.17 million. This remarkable contribution will significantly enhance WCU's mission to deliver industry-relevant knowledge and practical skills in polymer processing and advanced manufacturing.

This outcome demonstrates how a modest initial gift of just $1,000 can lead to exponential impact. Through collaboration between the **SPE Mold Technologies Division**, **HASCO America Inc.**, **Western Carolina Tool & Mold**, and **Moldex3D North America**, the donation has created enduring educational value for current and future WCU engineering students.

We extend sincere thanks to everyone involved in making the 2024 Mold Maker of the Year award not just a recognition, but a launchpad for growth, opportunity, and industry partnership.

HASCO

HASCO

Product Announcement:

New manifold blocks Z920/.../VA for the flexible configuration of cooling circuits

With the new manifold blocks Z920/…/VA made of stainless steel, the design of flexible cooling circuits can be carried out easily and reliably. The high-grade material guarantees reliable and long-lasting cooling applications. Because of their very good resistance to electrochemical corrosion, the manifold blocks can be used in medical and clean-room technology.

The central inflow and outflow via the manifold block offer the possibility to use shorter hose lines. In practice, this saves energy and, thanks to the very clear arrangement of the cooling lines, ensures greater safety at the workplace and more reliable production.

The manifold blocks Z920/.../VA, which can be mounted directly on the injection molding machine, are compatible with the HASCO cooling elements and can be individually extended through a modular plug-in system. The hoses can be connected via fixed screw connections or nipple/coupling combinations. The system is heat-resistant up to 200°C and designed for a maximum operating pressure of 15 bar.

The new manifold blocks, made of stainless steel, supplement the extensive HASCO cooling program.

Positive Plastics Education™ is Empowering Futures at the SPE Foundation!

Investing in Tomorrow: Plastics Hall of Fame Scholarships

Thanks to the generous support of our partners, the SPE Foundation is providing new scholarships to a record number of applicants this year, engaging hundreds of Girl Scouts through the Girl Scout Patch Program, and exposing more than 17,000 students to Positive Plastics Education through PlastiVan®. See how we're changing the perception of plastics and introducing students to the amazing world of polymers.

Investing in Tomorrow: Plastics Hall of Fame Scholarships

To honor dedicated students pursuing careers in the plastics industry and address the increasing demand for support, the Plastics Hall of Fame is pleased to offer four $5,000 scholarships through the SPE Foundation. Following a record-breaking year in 2024, during which the SPE Foundation awarded over $262,000 in scholarships, these new awards will allow us to assist even more students amid an unprecedented number of applications. Additionally, we are excited to present our inaugural Michael P. Sepe Scholarship and two scholarships through ALPS Inspection this year. These collaborations enable us to make a significant impact on future plastics professionals facing rising educational costs.

From Indiana to Florida: Girl Scout Patch Program Hits the Road with Polymer Science!

On April 5th, the SPE Foundation hosted an event in Valparaiso, Indiana, with the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & Northwest Indiana. Girls in grades 4-12 explored polymers, thermoplastics, recycling, and careers in the plastics industry, earning our "Color Your World with Polymer Science" patch. This marked our fourth event with this Girl Scout Council, enabling us to introduce hundreds of girls to the fascinating world of polymer science.

With sponsorship from DuPont Tedlar®, on April 12th, the SPE Foundation participated in the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida's STEMapalooza at Florida Polytechnic University, engaging over 1,800 Girl Scouts in similar activities. The SPE Foundation is committed to collaborating with Girl Scout Councils to inspire girls to seek ways they can become changemakers in our industry.

SPE Foundation Donors Honored at ANTEC

Our new members of the SPE Foundation Ambassador Giving Society and those who moved up a level were honored at this year's ANTEC® Awards Luncheon. Established in 2024, the Ambassador Giving Society recognizes donors who have given $10,000 and above to support the work and mission of the SPE Foundation. You can view the list of the Ambassador Giving Society's 66 individuals and organizations on the SPE Foundation's website.

FOUNDATION FOUNDATION FOUNDATION FOUNDATION

PROGRESSIVE
COMPONENTS

Progressive Introduces New Keyed Connect Locking Socket Connectors

Progressive Components (Wauconda, IL) has expanded its range of Socket Connectors to include the new Keyed Connect Locking Socket Connectors.

Unsecured connections for water, air, and hot oil can easily become disconnected during setup or while the mold is in operation. To address this issue, Progressive now offers Keyed Connect Locking Socket Connectors that feature a simple and intuitive "twist to lock" mechanism, securely holding the outer sleeve in place. To order, simply add "-KL" for "Keyed Locking" to the connector's catalog number (for example: SC308-KL).

These Keyed Connect Locking Socket Connectors feature an internal hex that will only mate with male keyed connector plugs. This design reduces mold setup and connection errors, speeds up changeovers, and ensures that molds operate as intended. Use the keyed connectors for "in" and the standard connectors for "out."

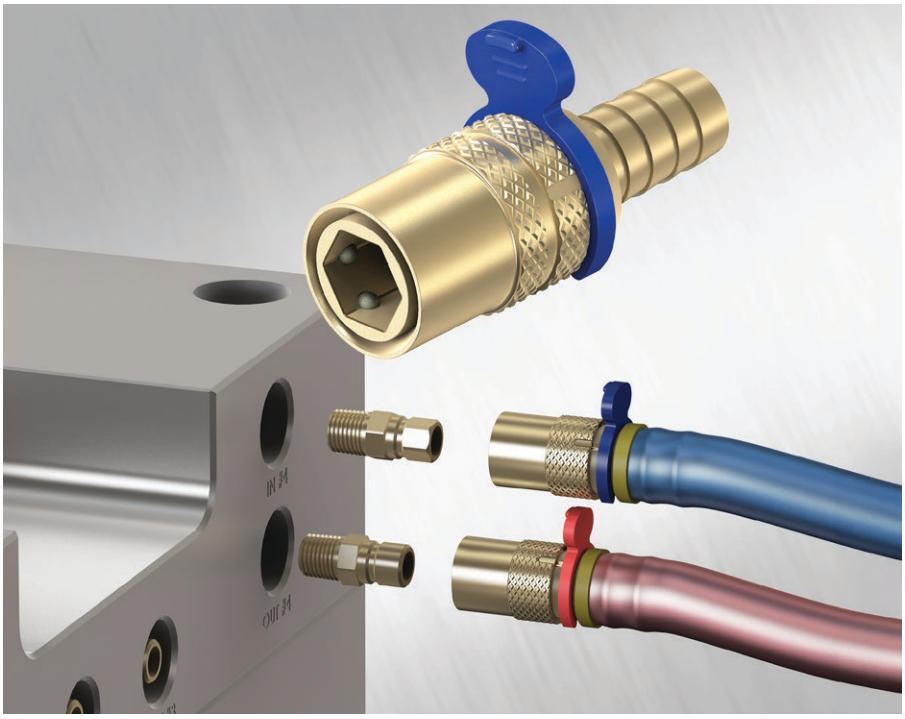
The connectors are available in three series: the 200 Series (1/4" hole), the 300 Series (3/8" hole), and the 500 Series (1/2" hole). They are compatible with Progressive's Keyed Connector Plugs or Keyed Extension Plugs and come with a blue Socket Clip for easy identification of cooling lines.

For more information on Progressive's line of Keyed Connect Locking Socket Connectors or any of its cooling connector options,

Visit: procomps.com

Email tech@procomps.com

Call 1-800-269-6653.



2025/2026 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Mold Technologies Division

OUR MISSION: **To be the leading industry resource for technical information and to advance plastic mold engineering technologies, while fostering industry growth, education and leadership.**

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MINUTES
Board of Directors Mold Making and Mold Design Division SPE

	Present	Absent	Excused		Present	Absent	Excused
Darryl Gratrix	X			James Jergens			X
John Berg	X			Ron Natale	X		
Scott Peters	X			Andy Hartmann			X
Peng Gao	X			Brenda Clark	Ex-Officio		
Greg Osborn			X	Davide Masato	X		
Barbara Arnold-Feret	X			Wes Stephens	X		
Stephen Hansen		X		Joe Karpinski			X
Rich Martin	X			Kerry Kanbara			X
Craig Crossley		X		Hari Sharma			X
Gunakar Golagana	X			Anthony Bubay		X	
Jim Piehl	X						

June 11, 2025, 3:05 Central Daylight Time – Meeting start

Division Chair – Scott Peters

- Board positions start July 1
- Kerry Kanbara and Greg Osborn want to stay on the board – they were inadvertently omitted from the ballot
- Motions were made for Greg and Kerry to stay on board – Rich made a motion, Ron seconded the motion
- Susan and Shoreh were removed from the board
- John has started on a summer newsletter – coming out in July
- Scott will be putting together the Awards report
- Scott is looking for someone for the chair-elect role

Chair-Elect Report – vacant position

- Nothing to report

Division Secretary Report – Wes Stephens

- Wes will transfer the secretary role to Rich starting July 1

Division Councilor Report – Barbara Arnold-Feret

- Nothing to report

Membership Chair – Peng Gao

- 255 division members as of 6/11/25 (down (2) from last month)
- 23 expired since 12/30/25; 19 will expire 6/29/25
- 1 new member, 12 renewals
- Board Members must monitor their membership and renew in a timely manner so that we retain our insurance and good standing with SPE HQ

Sponsorship Chair Report – Greg Osborne / Stephen Hansen - absent

- Nothing to report

(Continued on Page 36

TPC Report – Peng Gao

- At ANTEC, Peng suggested that we have an advertisement for the slides during intermission for our division

RETEC Report – Barbara Arnold-Feret - absent

- Nothing to report

Newsletter Editor Report – John Berg

- John has begun the reformatting of the newsletter for the July issue

Education Chair Report – Joe Karpinski – absent

- Scott reported that the Executive Committee was reviewing the applications for Scholarships and Grants

Web and Public Interest – OPEN

- Peng Gao suggested involving a student to manage the SPE Micro-Site for the division as a good way to gain both student involvement and to add to the student's resume/portfolio of activities.

Treasurer's Report – Rich Martin – Ron Natale

- Bank of America - $38,732 is in Checking; $122,582 is in CD; $161,314 Total
- We received payment from sponsors for the awards from PT EXPO
- Ron reviewed the budget and CD
- Motion was made for approval of budget – Ron made the motion, and Daryll seconded
- GK brought up that newsletters should be updated on the SPE site
- Ron made a motion to continue CD – 10 month at 4%; Wes seconded the motion

International Committee – Davide Masato/Hari Sharma

- Nothing to report

Intersociety Liaison Chair – Craig Crossley/Andrew Hartmann - absent

- Nothing to report

Track the Apprentice – Susan Huang - Absent

- Nothing to report

Social/Golf Outing – Kerry Kanbara

- Nothing to report

Student Activities – Anthony Bubay - absent

- Nothing new to report

OLD BUSINESS

- Nothing new to report

NEW BUSINESS:

- Ron brought up the idea that we have a 50/50 sponsorship of the awards
- The Scholarship amount was discussed as a group

The Meeting adjourned at 4:40 PM Central Standard Time

Newsletter Sponsorship

The SPE Mold Technologies Division Newsletter is now issued four times a year, with readership composed of individuals involved in all aspects of the mold making industry. These issues are made possible through the support of sponsors shown in this Newsletter. SPE Mold Technologies Division thanks these sponsors for their generosity and encouragement in the publishing of our Newsletter.

For information on sponsorship of future issues, please contact:

Greg Osborne - Sponsorship Chair - mldmkr@yahoo.com

Stephen Hansen - Associate Sponsor Chair - stephen.hansen@cdmtool.com

Publication Release Dates

Winter Issue
January

Spring Issue
March

Summer Issue
July

Fall Issue
October

SPONSORSHIP INFO 2025-2026

Platinum ($2500/year) Ad Specs: 9.75" H x 7.25" W

- Full page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo on signage in MTD booth at AmeriMold
- Company logo on signage at ANTEC
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

Gold ($1250/year) Ad Specs: 4.75" H x 7.25" W

- Half page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo on signage in MTD booth at AmeriMold
- Company logo on signage at ANTEC
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

Silver ($625/year) Ad Specs: 4.75" H x 3.5" W

- Quarter page color ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- First right of refusal to a tabletop at Technical Tours to educate participants on new technologies/strategies
- Opportunity to submit a technical article for publication in newsletter
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

Bronze ($250/year) Ad Specs: 2" H x 3.5" W

- Business card size ad in quarterly newsletter for one year circulated to members and distributed at SPE MTD events
- Company logo displayed at SPE events

Send us your suggestions / nominations for
Women Making the Mold

Whether she is any or all of designer, engineer, toolmaker, programmer, project manager, or shop owner we want to meet her and provide a platform for explaining her journey and telling her career story.

Please contact Scott Peters - scott.peters@moldedmarketing.com and John Berg - john.berg@dyntool.com with your candidate's name, contact information, and a few points on her career and the impact she has on our industry.

Our very sincere thanks to the outstanding roster of talent that allowed us to share their career path stories and industry insights.



MOLD TECHNOLOGIES

OUR MISSION

To be the leading industry resource for technical information to advance plastic mold engineering technologies, while fostering industry growth, education, and leadership.

OUR TECHNICAL FOCUS

The Mold Technologies Division exists to foster growth in the moldmaking and design profession by encouraging the training of moldmakers at the apprentice level, supporting the continuing development of established moldmakers, and by gathering and exchanging information on materials and mold performance.