



THERMOSETS: REINFORCING INDUSTRY

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SPE® THERMOSET DIV. ANNOUNCES FIRST KEYNOTE FOR TOPCON 2024:

“EMPOWERING WOMEN IN COMPOSITES: BUILDING BRIDGES AND STRENGTHENING THE INDUSTRY”

The SPE Thermoset Div. is announcing its first keynote speaker for their annual TopCon event to be held on April 30 – May 1, 2024 at the Monona Terrace and Convention Center in Madison, WI.

“EMPOWERING WOMEN IN COMPOSITES: BUILDING BRIDGES AND STRENGTHENING THE INDUSTRY”

will be presented by Marcy Offner, Director of Events & Industry Partnerships at **Composites One**, and Founder of **Women in the Composites Industry (WCI)**. Her presentation will focus on insights, valuable experiences, and tactics to capitalize on the distinctive contributions of women within the composites sector. “The participation of women in the global composites and advanced materials industry is on the rise,” said Offner. “As the sector expands, women are dismantling obstacles, fostering mentorship, and harnessing their collective power,” continued Offner. “Building a supportive community is essential not just for women but, also for forging strong collaborations with our male counterparts,” added Offner. “By cultivating a cooperative atmosphere, we can close existing divides and fortify our industry.”

The SPE Thermoset TopCon 2024 will also feature technical presentations and exhibits highlighting advances in materials, processes, and equipment for thermoset technologies in multiple applications. The 2-day conference includes networking breakfasts, lunches, and a cocktail reception. Optional social events, including a tour of the Polymer Engineering Center at UW – Madison, Golf Outing at University Ridge Golf Course, and a cruise of the Madison shoreline (weather permitting) are offered on April 29, the day before the conference begins.

A variety of exhibit and non-exhibit sponsorship packages including passes to the event and opportunities for company exposure are also available. Companies interested in showcasing their products and/or services via sponsorship or exhibiting, and individuals interested in registering to attend the event should go to <https://spethermosets.org/topcon/> for more info or contact Teri Chouinard at intuitgroup@gmail.com.

Conference Venue: Inspired by Wisconsin native Frank Lloyd Wright's design, at the peak of his creative powers in 1938, the Monona Terrace Community and Convention Center is one of the country's premier conference and convention facilities. On the shores of Lake Monona, it is an architecturally striking structure that connects the state capital, the cityscape, and the community. The conference exhibits, meals and cocktail reception will be in the Community Terrace with pristine views of Lake Monona offering a relaxing and enjoyable experience. The presentations will be in the Lecture Hall offering comfortable theatre style seating, staging and professional audio-visual support. Special rates are provided for conference attendees at the Hilton Madison Monona Terrace which is connected via skywalk to the conference venue. See <https://www.mononaterrace.com> and <https://www3.hilton.com/> for more info.

Sponsors: SPE Thermoset TopCon 2024 sponsors to date include: Plenco (Plastics Engineering Company); Mar-Bal, Inc.; IDI Composites; LyondellBasell; Cimbar Resources; Composites One; INEOS Composites; Core Molding; OMYA; Penn Compression Moulding; Glenwood Tool & Mold; Molding Products; Vibrantz Technologies; Schmidt & Heinzmann; American Colors; Neptune Nano Technologies; and CompositesWorld.

The mission of SPE is to promote scientific and engineering knowledge relating to composites worldwide and to educate industry, academia, and the public about the technological advances. SPE's Thermoset Division is active in educating, promoting, recognizing, and communicating technical accomplishments in thermoset technology in multiple industries. Topic areas include applications, materials, processing, equipment, tooling, design, and development. For more information see <https://spethermosets.org/topcon/>. For more information on the *Society of Plastics Engineers*, see www.4spe.org.

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Marcy Offner – Director of Events & Industry Partnerships at Composites One & and Founder of Women in the Composites Industry (WCI)

Marcy Offner, Director of Events & Industry Partnerships for Composites One, has worked in the composites and advanced materials industry for more than 20 years. She has been critical to the development of the Composites One brand, serving most recently as Director of Marketing Communications. She also plays a critical role in the Composites One technical support program - including producing joint technical workshops with IACMI and live process demonstrations. Since her tenure began, she has served on various ACMA committees from the Technical, Marketing, and the CAMX Steering Committee. She served as Chairperson of CAMX several times. She is a past ACMA Volunteer of the Year award winner and in 2022 she received the prestigious ACMA Chairman's Award for her contributions to ACMA, CAMX and the composites industry. She is also the founder of Women in the Composites Industry. When asked what she loves most about the composites and advanced materials industry, she says "It's simple - the people are the best - they work hard, want to make their customers happy and are filled with innovative ideas".

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