

SPE Thermoforming Division
590 Tower Blvd.
Carol Stream, IL 60188



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Press Contact: Greg Hannoosh, Next Step Communications Inc., (207) 703-0343 or ghannoosh@next-step.com, or

Contact for SPE: Shameka Jennings, Conference Coordinator, +1-240-393-6567 or info@thermoformingdivision.com

SPE HONORS ERIC LATTANNER FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT OF PROFESSIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION COMMUNITY

CAROL STREAM, IL., U.S.A., October 26, 2023: The Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Division has presented its Lifetime Achievement Award to Eric Lattanner, business development manager of Spartech, LLC. Mr. Lattanner has been a member of the Thermoforming community for four decades.

The Division's Executive Committee presented the award to him on October 25, during SPE's Thermoforming Awards Dinner at the Huntington Convention Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

Following graduation from Mount Union College, now the University of Mount Union, Eric joined the Royalite Division of Uniroyal in Mishawaka, IN in 1978 as a customer service representative, and has remained with Royalite his entire career through multiple acquisitions and corporate spin-offs, including Polycast, Spartech, PolyOne and several additional iterations of Spartech. His career has taken him from Indiana to Dallas, to Northern California, to New Jersey, and back to Indiana in a variety of sales, marketing, and business development management positions. In 2016 Eric and his wife, Betsy, moved to Colorado where they live today on a 30-acre ranch outside of Ridgway.

For his entire career, Eric has consistently ensured that customers' requirements were met for existing products and customers' wishes for new products were reviewed and coordinated with stakeholders all along the supply chain---from the end-user to the thermoformer, as well as all key departments within his company.

Eric always made sure his company provided complete cooperation with customers when it came to product development and product service. He was pivotal in communicating and coordinating requirements with R&D, Production Planning and every facet of manufacturing. He also made sure that customers were able to properly use extruded sheet products and solve any forming problems that might occur by working alongside Lee Boser, who was honored with this award in 2019 for his hands-on technical assistance to thermoformers using Royalite® and Royalex® products.

Eric always had something that is too often in short supply today---Patience. He would often work for years with end-users, whether the thermoformer or the thermoformer's customers for formed parts, to

make the right product, ensure that it performed properly and to obtain any necessary certifications from organizations such as UL and the Food and Drug Administration.

As a result, Eric's efforts succeeded in establishing what were often decades-long relationships with many internationally-known customers. These included seats for Bombardier light rail passenger cars, components for General Electric Locomotives, overhead luggage compartments and wall and window panels for Boeing and other aircraft manufacturers, and Royalex® plastic sheet for every major canoe manufacturer and for Walt Disney World to produce canoes for their water rides. If the end-user's parts' blueprints specified a Royalite® or Royalex® product, Eric had almost certainly worked jointly for years with their design and engineering departments to develop the products.

A recipient of his company's 'Salesperson of the Year' award, and 'Circle of Champions' award several times each, Eric has also supported every SPE Thermoforming Division conference since the first one was held in Portage, WI in 1992, and has also traveled to Europe to support several of the SPE European Thermoforming Division conferences as well.

"Though I have not worked directly with Eric, his stellar reputation and commitment to the Thermoforming Community have often been communicated to me by past and current members of the Thermoforming Division," said Steve Zamprelli, the SPE Thermoforming Division's former Chair. "We are fortunate and grateful to have people such as Eric who have helped to make thermoforming the vibrant industry that it is today."

###

THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION is a technical division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, based in Danbury, CT. The Thermoforming Division's mission is to facilitate the advancement of thermoforming technologies through education, application, promotion and research. The Division hosts an annual educational conference and publishes an award-winning technical journal, *SPE Thermoforming Quarterly*®. The Division has also funded over \$275K in equipment grants and tens of thousands of dollars in undergraduate scholarships since it was first formed. For more information, please visit <https://thermoformingdivision.com>.

###