

PHOTOS ATTACHED: Dr. Brian Landes; SPE Thermoforming Division Logo

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For Immediate Release

SPE THERMOFORMING CONFERENCE® KEYNOTE SPEAKER TO ADDRESS THE FUTURE ROLE OF PLASTICS

CAROL STREAM, IL, U.S.A., June 12, 2019: The keynote speaker for the 27th annual Society of Plastics Engineers (SPE) Thermoforming Conference® will be Dr. Brian Landes, technology leader at The Dow Chemical Company and 2019-2020 SPE President, it was announced today by SPE's Thermoforming Division. The Conference will take place *September 9-11, 2019 in Milwaukee, WI, at the Wisconsin Center and the Hilton Milwaukee City Center Hotel.*

Dr. Landes's presentation, *Forming the Sustainable Future for Plastics and SPE*, will address one of the biggest issues facing the plastics industry today: sustainability. He has outlined the theme of his presentation as follows:

The plastics industry has a rich legacy of delivering innovative materials and products that can be scaled, manufactured, and distributed for the benefit of society. These innovations have provided clean water as well as preserved the quality and quantity of food needed to feed billions. They have promoted reliable infrastructure, propelled fuel-efficient transportation and revolutionized medicine. Sadly, however, used plastics have found their way into a place that they were never designed to be – our environment.

The conversation has changed. Expectations have changed. We must change. Above all else, the industry is being called to innovate to address global plastics waste. This will require a new wave of innovation and heightened emphasis on sustainability beyond industry boundaries. As plastics professionals, how can we as individuals – and as a Society – be effective influencers and trustworthy collaborators for positive change? Let's explore how SPE is uniquely positioned to provide a framework to collect, connect and educate the right stakeholders to form a sustainable global community.

Dr. Landes earned his BS, MS and PhD in Polymer Science from the Department of Material Science and Engineering at Pennsylvania State University. He joined The Dow Chemical Company upon graduation and has spent his 35-year career developing novel materials and measurement technologies for applications in the electronics, water filtration, automotive, packaging, construction, and energy capture/storage industries. He is currently charged with establishing collaborative partnerships between academia, industry, and U.S. national laboratories.

Dr. Landes has been invited to speak on behalf of U.S. industry before the US Senate, House of Representatives, Department of Energy, and National Science Foundation. Dr. Landes is a Fellow and an Honored Service Member of SPE and a member of the SPE Executive Board.

“The plastics industry faces greater scrutiny than ever before as a result of manufacturing’s impact on the environment,” said Steve Zamprelli, 2019 SPE Thermoforming Conference Co-Chair. “We’re excited to hear Brian’s thoughts on SPE’s leadership role in a process that will change the conversation and result in the better future that we all seek.”

More information is available at <https://thermoformingdivision.com> or by contacting Lesley Kyle at 1-914-671-9524 or lesley@openmindworks.com.

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THE SPE THERMOFORMING DIVISION is a technical division of the Society of Plastics Engineers, based in Bethel, 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>.