
Press Talking Points

- PlastiVan® is a national education STEM outreach program delivered by the SPE Foundation that is geared for grades 3-12.
- The program is available throughout the United States educating students, teachers, and the general public about the chemistry, history, processing, applications, and environmental issues of plastics.
- The PlastiVan® Program is a great way to excite middle and high school students about the opportunities in the plastics industry.
- The PlastiVan® Program is easily integrated into school curricula.
- The PlastiVan® Program provides sound science and educational activities to spark scientific curiosity in students while increasing their knowledge of the contribution that plastics make in modern life.
- 26, 379 middle school, high school, and STEM festival participants were impacted by PlastiVan® in the academic year 2018-19.
- In 2018-19, 16 states and 175 separate schools and colleges were impacted by the PlastiVan® Program.
- Braskem's continued generous financial support of the PlastiVan® Program has allowed for growth including significant curriculum improvements and the hiring of 6 educators and a program coordinator.
- Plastic plays a vital role in transportation, health care, agriculture, and electronics—and almost all industries. In the United States the industry is experiencing a serious shortage of skilled workers. As the plastics industry continues to thrive, it needs creative, bright, and passionate new minds to steer its course. PlastiVan® works to bring those concepts to life for students.
- Plastics are now the #1 choices for prostheses.
- Plastics companies and other organizations—such as trade schools and community colleges—are encouraged to introduce their community to the value of plastics by sponsoring a visit from the PlastiVan®.
- Companies that sponsor PlastiVan® nurture the development of their future workforce by opening the minds of students to careers in science, engineering, technology, and mathematics (STEM), subjects that are utilized daily in the plastics industry.
- In one year, recycling and reuse accounted for 757,000 U.S. jobs, \$36.6B in wages and \$6.7B in tax revenues (2016 EPA Recycling Economic Information Report, U.S. Census Bureau)
- The plastics industry employs nearly 1.0 million people in the United States with a total of 1.81 million jobs including suppliers. *
- The plastics industry is the 3rd largest manufacturing sector in the United States. *
- As reported in 2016, the plastics is the 8th largest U.S. industry. *
- While U.S. manufacturing has decreased over the last 25 years, plastics manufacturing is growing, and enjoys a sizeable trade surplus.*