

NACE PRESS CONTACT:
Pamela Miller
888-529-1641 / 972-536-6318
www.NACEexpo.com

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***Pursuit of Happyness* Author and Movie Inspiration, Chris Gardner, to Keynote NACE 2007**

Dallas, TX — The 2007 International Autobody Congress & Exposition (NACE) announced that author and philanthropist, Chris Gardner will share his remarkable story during the NACE 2007 keynote presentation. DuPont Performance Coatings is the sponsor of the Opening General Session taking place Thursday morning, November 1 at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center.

Because of surmounting acute obstacles on his road to success, Gardner is now an avid motivational speaker, addressing the keys to self-empowerment, beating odds, and breaking cycles. His amazing story was published as an autobiography, *The Pursuit of Happyness*, becoming a *New York Times* #1 bestseller. Gardner was also the inspiration for the movie *The Pursuit of Happyness*, released by Columbia Pictures in December, 2006. Will Smith stars as Gardner, and Gardner is an associate producer. The movie was #1 at the box office its opening weekend.

Always hard working and tenacious, a series of circumstances in the early 1980's left Gardner homeless in San Francisco and the sole guardian of his toddler son. Unwilling to give up Chris Jr. or his dream of financial independence, Gardner started at the bottom. Without connections or a college degree, he earned a spot in the Dean Witter Reynolds training program. Often spending his nights in a church shelter or the bathroom at a Bay Area Rapid Transit station in Oakland, Gardner was the sole trainee offered a job at Dean Witter Reynolds in 1981. He spent 1983-1987 at Bear Stearns & Co., where he became a top earner, and then in 1987, he founded the brokerage firm Gardner Rich & Co. in Chicago. Currently, Gardner is the owner and CEO of Christopher Gardner International Holdings with offices in New York, Chicago, and San Francisco.

"We are pleased to provide our NACE attendees the opportunity to hear Chris Gardner's dynamic and candid rags-to-riches story," said Ron Pyle, ASA President and Chief Staff Executive. "His message of overcoming obstacles, balancing life's responsibilities and ultimately succeeding will inspire and motivate everyone in attendance, leaving them excited for the NACE Expo opening."

His extraordinary story illustrates the nurturing and sustaining power of positive role models. Gardner's belief in himself and his dreams, along with his refusal to give in to self-doubt, promises to inspire the NACE audience and confirm that life is full of possibility if you put your heart into it and don't give up.

NACE 2007 will be held October 31-November 3, at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. The educational Conference will run from October 31-November 3 (Wednesday-Saturday), and the Exposition will take place Nov. 1-3 (Thursday-Saturday). The event will again be held during Automotive Aftermarket Industry Week (AAIW), taking place that same week in Las Vegas.

NACE -- the world's collision repair event -- annually draws an estimated attendance of 25,000 to 30,000 industry professionals from around the globe, featuring a comprehensive educational Conference and Exposition of 425+ exhibiting companies. To exhibit at NACE 2007, call toll-free (888) 529-1641 or (972) 536-6444. For more NACE information, visit the NACE website at www.NACEexpo.com.

The Automotive Service Association (ASA), the largest international not-for-profit trade association of its kind serving the collision repair industry, sponsors NACE. For additional information, contact NACE Show Management, Hanley Wood Exhibitions, P.O. Box 612128, Dallas, Texas 75261-2128 or call toll-free (888) 529-1641 or (972) 536-6444.

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Editor's Note: The online Media Center @ www.NACEexpo.com will include this release. It also includes previous NACE news releases, support photographs and additional event information that is updated on a regular basis. NACE welcomes links to its website. If you would like to incorporate a direct link (from your site) to the NACE website using a NACE logo, please contact Pamela Miller, NACE Marketing Manager, at (888) 529-1641 or (972) 536-6318, e-mail: pmiller@hanleywood.com.