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## Women's Professional Development Track Debuts at NACE 2007 Conference Program

*Dallas, Texas* — The 25<sup>th</sup> annual International Autobody Congress & Exposition (NACE) announced that the 2007 Conference Program will debut the first-ever Women's Professional Development Track. This new specialized track will feature four brand-new sessions to further develop the skills and careers of women who are directly or indirectly involved in the collision repair and automotive service industries.

The sessions have been reviewed and approved by the Automotive Management Institute (AMI) and earn participants credits toward the Institute's Accredited Automotive Manager (AAM) designation. The following courses are scheduled:

- **How to Communicate Like a Pro** — Focused on the development of powerful spoken and written communication skills (Wed., Oct. 31 at 8:30 a.m.)
- **A Brand-New You ... Assertiveness Skills that Lead to Success** — Designed to develop women into strong, gutsy decision-makers and risk-takers (Wed., Oct. 31 at 1:30 p.m.)
- **Developing Your Own Road Map** — Focused on self-improvement and achieving goals (Thurs., Nov. 1 at 4:00 p.m.)
- **Overcoming Obstacles** — Featuring stress management techniques and empowerment skills (Fri., Nov. 2 at 4:00 p.m.)

"This new Women's Professional Development Track will provide education and training for women who are directly involved in the business as owners, managers, partners and service advisers -- as well as women who have their own careers and interests outside of the business," said Toni Slaton, AAM, executive director of AMI. "As a woman in the industry, it's very exciting to launch a relevant program that will help women further develop the business skills necessary to be even more successful."

In addition to the new Women's Professional Development (WPD) track, the NACE 2007 Conference Program includes tracks for Auto Glass, Estimating, Jobber, Management, Vehicle Repair and General. Sessions are offered Wednesday (Oct. 31) through Saturday (Nov. 3) in 90-minute timeslots. Out of the 57 sessions, 39 are brand new to the NACE line-up and 36 are accredited by the Automotive Management Institute (including the four WPD sessions listed above). Search online at [www.NACEexpo.com](http://www.NACEexpo.com) for a complete listing of sessions, descriptions and speakers – search by keyword, title, track, date or speaker.

Additionally, I-CAR will present expanded technical training with six sessions on Wednesday (Oct 31) and three sessions on Saturday (Nov. 3). Of these nine sessions, three are brand new and are premiering at NACE 2007. PCI will again offer an updated version of their annual session, Insurance and Auto Repair: Issues 2008, for the independent insurer and repairer on Wednesday (Oct. 31).

There are also six FREE Early Bird Roundtables (three each on Friday and Saturday mornings) – encouraging discussion on such compelling issues as Industry Trends – Today & Beyond; Women in the Industry; Third Party Audits; and Parts Procurement. Plus -- a FREE Auto Glass session (Friday afternoon) – How to Educate Auto Glass Technicians. The FREE Conference offerings continue out on the show floor with the I-CAR Technology Showcase clinics, live exhibitor and auto glass demos.

To complement the Conference Program, NACE offers a variety of key events including Wednesday Evening's Welcome Reception – Mix/Mingle/Network! (sponsored by CCC Information Services Inc.), Thursday's Opening General Session – featuring Chris Gardner as keynote (sponsored by DuPont Performance Coatings), and Friday Morning's Panel Talk – De-Mystifying "Lean" (sponsored by Akzo Nobel).

Register and book housing online at [www.NACEexpo.com](http://www.NACEexpo.com). 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:pmiller@hanleywood.com).