

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****CONTACT:**

Joyce Kasmer, I-CAR Director of Marketing  
800.422.7872, Ext. 246  
joyce.kasmer@i-car.com

**I-CAR ANNOUNCES NEW CHIEF STAFF EXECUTIVE**

HOFFMAN ESTATES, IL – June 9, 2008 - The International Board of Directors of the Inter-Industry Conference on Auto Collision Repair (I-CAR) today announced that it has appointed John W. Edelen to fill the position of President and Chief Executive Officer of the organization. Edelen has served as interim chief executive since November 2007.

Sam Pezzullo, Vice-Chairman of I-CAR's International Board of Directors, made the announcement. "Since last November, at the request of the I-CAR Board, John Edelen has been serving as the Interim CEO of I-CAR. The Board is pleased with the progress that I-CAR is making under John's leadership, and we want to see this progress continue. Through his appointment, we will be able to provide the organization with continuity, and build upon the early work that John has done with both the I-CAR Staff and Volunteers. John has resigned from his position as a member of the Board of Directors, and as Chairman, to assume this leadership role," said Mr. Pezzullo.

Per the I-CAR Bylaws, Mr. Pezzullo, as Vice-Chair, will assume the responsibilities of the chairman position vacated due to Mr. Edelen's resignation from the Board.

"The past months at I-CAR have been both challenging and rewarding," offered Mr. Edelen. "The organization has stepped-up to meet the challenges of these difficult times for the auto collision repair inter-industry, and for I-CAR. We are re-engaging with our customers, and taking their lead in finding ways to deliver increased value from the I-CAR training experience. Our Volunteers, Instructors and Staff have the highest levels of commitment to the Vision of I-CAR - that every person in the collision industry, current and future, has the necessary knowledge and skills relevant to their position to achieve a complete and safe repair," he continued. "I am grateful for the support of I-CAR Volunteers, Instructors and Staff, and for the confidence that the I-CAR Board has placed in me. I commit to do all that I can to lead I-CAR in fulfilling the Mission for which it was created by the auto collision inter-industry, close to thirty years ago."

"Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures and in my 25-plus years involved with I-CAR, this is one of those times. As Chairman of the Search Committee, it seemed to me that the committee always ended up talking about finding someone with the talents that John had and was using in his position as Chairman of the Board and

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Interim CEO,” said Chuck Sulkala of ACME Body & Paint in Boston, Mass. “Several times we asked how long we could continue to have his expertise in the interim position as we searched for someone who had the mix of experience and skill sets that John was bringing to the organization. I believe this move will be the best short-term action for I-CAR, positioning us for long-term success to benefit the industry we serve.”

“This is fantastic news!! I cannot think of a better person to lead I-CAR than John. John’s knowledge of I-CAR, the strong relationships he’s built within the inter-industry, and his passion for excellence to make I-CAR a stronger organization are a few of the reasons why the I-CAR International Board of Directors supported the idea of John becoming the Chief Staff Executive of I-CAR. Personally, I’ve learned a great deal from John, and am honored to work with him,” stated Mike Schoonover, President of Schoonover Body Works, who holds an Automotive Service Association (ASA) seat on the Board. “I believe he will do a great job leading the staff and volunteers of I-CAR, by empowering them to provide high quality education to the Collision Repair Industry.”

“As a member of the Board from the collision repair segment, I am extremely pleased that John Edelen has accepted the position of Chief Staff Executive of I-CAR. He has shown through his interim term that he has the experience and leadership skills to guide the very dedicated staff of I-CAR through these challenging times,” stated Bob Keith, Director of Environmental, Safety, and Production for CARSTAR. “The Board will work with John and the Staff to rebuild the organization by providing a high quality product with a high level of customer service which we as repairers strive to deliver every day.”

John Edelen had been a member of I-CAR’s International Board of Directors for five years. He had been an officer at Allstate Insurance Company, responsible for Allstate’s auto claim handling practices. He is a graduate of Rutgers College, and of New York Law School. John has participated in a number of executive post-graduate courses, including studies at: The Sloan School of Management at MIT, The Kellogg School of Management of Northwestern University, and a consortium of MIT, Tufts and Harvard, in Boston. Over the past ten years, John has served on a number of for-profit and non-profit boards, including: Tech-Cor, LLC; Sterling Collision Repair Centers; the Certified Aftermarket Parts Association (CAPA); the CynCast Corporation; and, I-CAR, where he most recently served as Board Chairman. In the past, John has presented at inter-industry forums such as CIC, NACE and IBIS.

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*I-CAR, founded in 1979, is an international not-for-profit training organization dedicated to improving the quality, safety, and efficiency of auto collision repair for the ultimate benefit of consumers.*



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