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For Release: News Bulletin AMI-16
Oct. 6, 2008

AMI Announces 2008 Richard Cossette/Gale Westerlund Memorial Scholarship Recipient

Bedford, Texas, Oct. 6, 2008 — The Automotive Management Institute (AMI) and the Automotive Service Association (ASA) jointly announced today that Vanessa Hayes, body shop manager of Saturn of Tucson, Tucson, Ariz., is the recipient of this year's Richard Cossette/Gale Westerlund Memorial Scholarship.

Hayes has worked in the collision industry for more than 9 years and is currently working on completing the necessary requirements to earn the Institute's Accredited Automotive Manager (AAM) designation. She currently holds several I-CAR certifications and serves as a volunteer for CIC and the Tucson Chapter of I-CAR.

Richard Cossette owned Lehman's Garage in Minneapolis, Minn., and was a charter founder of AMI and a \$50,000 Charter Counselor contributor to AMI's resource development effort EXCEL. He was the first chairman of EXCEL and was a recipient of AMI's Annual Recognition Award in 1994. He was awarded an honorary Accredited Automotive Manager (AAM) designation in 1997 to further recognize his commitment and dedication to AMI. He also held numerous leadership positions on the ASA board of directors and was active in several industry organizations until his death in 2002.

Westerlund owned and operated Gale's Auto Center in Blaine Minn., and was a \$25,000 Guarantor contributor to EXCEL. He earned the Institute's AAM designation in 1993, and also served on the ASA board of directors for many years. He was an active member of ASA and other collision industry organizations until his death in 2005.

As the scholarship recipient, Hayes will receive \$1,000 to help cover expenses to attend educational sessions and view the latest repair technologies and equipment during the 2008 International Autobody Congress & Exposition (NACE), Nov. 5-8, in Las Vegas.

"As a recipient of this scholarship, it is a great honor to be recognized as a member of the collision industry. I appreciate the opportunity to expand my knowledge and ability through training," said Hayes.

AMI was established to answer the demand for continuing education tailored specifically for the business needs of the automotive service industry. The Institute offers the Accredited Automotive Manager (AAM) designation, the first business management accreditation exclusively for the automotive service professional. To date, AMI programs have attracted more than 168,000 enrollments throughout North America. AMI is a not-for-profit educational foundation to which tax-deductible contributions can be made. For more information about the Institute, its curriculum, or EXCEL, please contact AMI at (800) 272-7467, ext. 241, or visit the AMI Web site at <http://www.amionline.org>.

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