



CENTER FOR  
AUTOMOTIVE  
RESEARCH

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## **Center for Automotive Research Announces New Chair and New Directors**

**ANN ARBOR** – The Center for Automotive Research is pleased to announce three new members appointed to its Board of Directors and the selection of a new Board Chair. Dr. James Jacob has been appointed Board Chair effective September 21, 2020. John Bozzella, president and CEO, Alliance for Automotive Innovation; Ed Knapp, corporate Chief Technology Officer American Tower; and Michael Putz, President and CEO, Peterson American Corporation, are the new Directors.

**Dr. James Jacobs** has been a CAR Board member since 2010, and assumes the chair role following the resignation of Neil De Koker, who was the first external chair of the Board. Jacobs was the president of Macomb Community College 2008-2017, and is now the College's president emeritus. Prior to his appointment as the college's president, he concurrently served as director for the Center for Workforce Development and Policy at the college, and as associate director, Community College Research Center (CCRC), Teachers College, Columbia University, where he currently serves as a member of its board of directors. He earned his Ph.D. from Princeton University and has more than 40 years of experience at Macomb. He has taught social science, political science and economics. He specializes in the areas of workforce skills and technology, economic development, worker retraining and community college workforce development, and is widely published in these areas of expertise.

In addition, Jacobs has conducted research, developed programs and consulted on workforce development and community college issues at the national, state and local levels. Much of this work has focused on the automotive industry. Jacobs serves on a number of local boards, including the Metropolitan Affairs Council, Detroit Institute of Arts, United Way for Southeastern Michigan and Advancing Macomb. He is widely known for the Macomb County Economic Forecast, which he has presented annually for more than 30 years for the coalition of the county's chambers of commerce.

**John Bozzella**, is a veteran auto industry executive. From 2014 until the establishment of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, known as Auto Innovators, in January 2020, he served as president and CEO of the Association of Global Automakers, the trade association whose members included the U.S operations of international automobile and light-duty truck manufacturers that sold products in the United States. Previously, Bozzella served as a Senior Operating Executive for Cerberus Operations and Advisory Company, LLC, where he worked with the firm and its portfolio companies on a range of public policy and economic development matters. He served as Senior Vice President of External Affairs and Public Policy at Chrysler Group in 2009, and Vice President of External Affairs and Public Policy for Chrysler LLC from 2007 to 2009. In this capacity, he mobilized government support to significantly restructure Chrysler.

At Chrysler, Bozzella worked closely with the federal government and other automakers on a substantial advanced technology vehicle loan program and on the development of new fuel economy standards. In addition, he worked with state governments to gain funding for restructuring, training, and development. From 2005 to 2007, Bozzella spent two years with DaimlerChrysler Corporation as Vice President of External Affairs and Public Policy for the Americas. Bozzella was with Ford Motor Company from 1994 to 2005 in positions in public policy, and government and community relations, and labor relations. Prior to joining the automotive industry, Bozzella served as New York City's director of state legislative affairs under Mayor David N. Dinkins. He began his career in public policy as the Director of Legislative and Political Action for the United Federation of Teachers. Bozzella is a graduate of Cornell University.

**Ed Knapp** is the corporate CTO for American Tower. He is responsible for leading the company's global innovation program, technology investments and strategy. Prior to joining American Tower in 2017, as Senior Vice President of Engineering at Qualcomm, Knapp was responsible for their New Jersey Corporate Research Center from which he managed a diverse engineering team with researchers and product engineering staff across India, Israel and the US. Knapp has more than 38 years of communications technology experience--with over 30 years invested in the development of the global wireless industry from 1G to 5G, including CxO leadership roles in 3 start-ups.

At Qualcomm, Knapp established the FSMTM small cell product line and managed advanced R&D projects including mmW 5G, mobile & vehicular device to device (V2X) technology, localization technology as well as various licensed and unlicensed spectrum applications. Knapp joined Qualcomm with the acquisition of OFDMA leading start-up Flarion Technologies in 2006. Before joining Flarion, Knapp was the chief technology officer of PacketVideo Corporation, a pioneer in delivering end to end multimedia software for streaming of MPEG4 video to mobile devices. Prior to PacketVideo, Knapp co-founded and served as the senior vice president of engineering and chief technology officer of the MVNO operator NextWave Telecom, Inc. Knapp also served as the executive director of technical services for Bell Atlantic/NYNEX Mobile (Verizon Wireless) where he was responsible for design, buildout and operation of the New York Metro area 1G and 2G cellular system. He received a master's of business administration from Columbia University, his Masters of Science degree in electrical engineering from Polytechnic University (NYU) in New York, and a bachelor's degree in engineering from Stony Brook University. Knapp currently has 5 granted US patents and 1 pending application.

**Mike Putz** is President and CEO of Peterson American Corporation (PAC). PAC is a designer and manufacturer of highly engineered springs, wire forms, retaining rings, clamps, stampings, and a variety of related sub-assemblies. The company serves a diverse set of end markets that span automotive OEM, industrial, motorsport/racing, truck & trailer, heavy equipment, and consumer products.

Previously, Putz was President & CFO of Alco Manufacturing. Prior to that, he spent eight years at MPI Products, including four years as Chief Operating Officer and four years as Chief Financial Officer. Putz holds a B.A in Accounting from Walsh College and an MBA from Wayne State University. He is a CPA licensed in the State of Michigan and a member of both the MICPA and AICPA.

Entire List of CAR Board of Directors <https://www.cargroup.org/about-board-of-directors/>

Learn more about the Center for Automotive Research at [www.cargroup.org](http://www.cargroup.org)

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*The Center for Automotive Research is a nonprofit organization; its mission is to conduct independent research and analysis to educate, inform and advise stakeholders, policy makers, and the general public on critical issues facing the automotive industry, and the industry's impact on the U.S. economy and society.*

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