# FCA-UAW Employees to Receive \$5,000 in Profit Sharing

As a result of the company's strong 2016 financial performance, Fiat Chrysler will make average profit-sharing payments of \$5,000 to eligible UAW-represented employees.

ees will receive the payment on Feb. 17.

With this payment, Fiat Chrysler employees have received more than \$18,000 in prof-

Approximately 40,000 employ-it sharing since 2009, said Fiat three assembly plants in Michi-es will receive the payment on Chrysler spokeswoman Jodi Tin-gan, Illinois and Ohio. son. The company will spend much of 2017 completing the first phase of its industrialization plan, which includes retooling

A total of \$2.5 billion will be invested in these facilities to expand the Jeep and Ram brands and will bring 1,700 new jobs to

these communities. These actions are planned to be completed by early 2018.

The 2016 profit sharing payment is based on North American performance.

#### info@detroitautoscene.com

# **Detroit Auto Scene**

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT"

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**JANUARY 30, 2017** 



GM CEO Mary Barra, left, and GWC founder and CEO Reshma Saujani

**Of Computer Programmers** 

**GM Partners with Group** 

The gender gap in technology

and engineering is getting worse

despite the increased demand for STEM-related jobs. GM and

the national nonprofit Girls Who

Code (GWC) on Jan. 10 unveiled

a partnership to inspire and

of computer programming, said

GWC CEO and founder Reshma

ship, girls from underserved communities will gain increased

access to computer science education, sisterhood, mentorship

and projects that demonstrate

the real-world impact of comput-

ing through a model that signifi-

cantly increases young girls' in-

terest in pursuing technology

and engineering degrees, Saujani

GM is giving a \$250,000 grant

to expand GWC's Clubs pro-

grams, which provide free after-

school activities in schools,

universities and community

To kick off the partnership, GM

Through the GM/GWC partner-

Saujani.

said

centers.

## Durango Adds 'Poshness' to Its Interior

tra luxury to the Dodge Durango's Citadel Anodized Platinum feature package Jan. 17 at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit.

"I'm very excited to tell what's new with the Dodge Durango," said Andrea Deliz, Dodge product manager, speaking at the NAIAS.

"Last year, we introduced the Citadel Anodized Platinum package, which features platinum accents across the exterior of the vehicle.

"This year, we've added to the package with the goal in mind to give the Durango interior a more refined look and feel."

To accomplish that, Deliz said Dodge paid attention to the details when developing the new trim package.

"The first thing you'll notice," Deliz said, "is the soft-touch Napa leather seating featuring our new sepia color with silveraccented stitching. This unique seating is a first for the Durango and it's also available in allblack.

Further changes include the hand-wrapped dashboard with accent stitching that is meant to enhance the craftsmanship look of the interior, Deliz said.

Fiat Chrysler unveiled the ex- steering wheel also showcase a a market for it among Durango unique gunmetal finish, Deliz said. And the second row of seats are captain's chairs. That feature is standard with the new Platinum package.

This new interior trim was designed to complement the exterior appearance package, Deliz said. The total interior and exterior package now includes platinum chrome accents to the SUV's 20-inch wheels, grille, lower sills, door handles, mirror caps, fog lamp bezels and badging.

Chrysler spokesman Fiat Trevor Dorchies said this latest update was done because there's buyers.

"The Durango is doing very well for Dodge," Dorchies said. "A lot of our customers like the drive and the way the Durango handles, but they also want a little bit of poshness to go with their ride.'

So, last year, Dodge added the exterior platinum package, Dorchies said. It proved so successful that Dodge did the same for the vehicle's interior.

"We're constantly updating our product to match customer demand," Dorchies said. "And the market calls for something like our platinum package.



The door speakers and the The Durango now comes with a new interior accent design.

## **Trump Plan Could Cost U.S. Automakers, Say Analysts**

by DEE-ANN DURBIN AP Auto Writer

everywhere.

DETROIT (AP) - The threat from President Donald Trump to tax Mexican-made cars sold in the U.S. would throw the industry into disarray, analysts say, forcing some uncomfortable choices: Raise car prices or swallow the cost. Stop selling Mexican-made cars in the U.S. but risk losing customers. Move production to the U.S. but make less

Chairman and CEO Mary Barra money. Whitman, a business professor at the University of Michigan and a former vice president at General Motors Co.

Trump hosted a breakfast meeting early Jan. 24 with the heads of GM, Ford and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Prior to the meeting, Trump demanded on Twitter that automakers build new factories in the U.S.

"I want new plants to be built here for cars sold here," his tweet said.

He has warned of a "substan-

For more than two decades, Mexico has been an oasis for the auto industry, offering cheap labor and access to dozens of markets through free-trade deals. Whitman says Detroit automakers can't build small cars profitably in the U.S., where a unionized auto worker can make \$58 an hour in wages and benefits. By comparison, a Mexican auto assembly worker makes a little more than \$8.

That helps to explain why automakers have announced \$24 billion in Mexican investments over the last six years, according auto industry, the president has to the Center for Automotive Research, a Michigan think tank. In all, \$50.5 billion in vehicles and

\$51 billion in auto parts were shipped to the U.S. from Mexico in 2015, U.S. government figures show.

Mexico's auto sector, while still smaller than the U.S., is growing at a faster clip. Mexico's vehicle production capacity is expected to rise 49 percent to 5.5 million vehicles by 2023, according to LMC Automotive, a forecasting firm. U.S. capacity will grow 13 percent to 14.2 million vehicles in the same period.

But Trump could change that. In frequent tweets targeting the proposed both a 35 percent tariff

empower thousands of U.S. mid-Code is one more step in GM's commitment to inspiring and dle and high school girls to become future leaders in the field growing diverse future leaders.

I'm extremely proud that some of

GM's top female leaders will

"Becoming an engineer paved

the way for my career," said Barra. "It's one of the reasons I

am passionate about promoting

STEM education to students

"Partnering with Girls Who

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

and Sauiani hosted 30 GWC students for activities focused on connectivity, electrification, autonomous and future mobility solutions.

"I don't think the auto industry would turn up its feet and die, but it would be a terrible shock. It would create mayhem with their profitability," said Marina

tial border tax" on companies that move manufacturing out of the country and promised tax advantages to those that produce domestically.

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 4** 



2017 F-Series Super Duty

## Ford Employees to Get \$9,000 Profit Checks

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP) - Ford Motor Co.'s net income fell nearly 40 percent last year as a big pension adjustment and the cost of scrapping a new plant in Mexico outweighed an otherwise strong performance.

The company on Jan. 26 posted \$4.6 billion in net income, down nearly \$2.8 billion from a year earlier. But Ford said its pretax profit for the year hit \$10.4 billion, the second-best ever, while revenue rose slightly to \$151.8 billion.

Ford's 56,000 U.S. hourly workers will reap the benefits. They'll

get average profit-sharing checks pension obligations and a \$200 of \$9,000 based on a pretax North American profit of just over \$9 billion.

But with slowing sales expected in the U.S., Ford's most lucrative market, and big investments in electric and autonomous vehicles, the company said it expects 2017 profits to be strong but lower than last year.

For the fourth quarter, the Dearborn automaker posted a \$783 million net loss compared with a \$1.9 billion profit a year ago.

The loss was due largely to a \$3 billion noncash adjustment of million charge for halting construction of the Mexican factory. That was announced earlier this month amid criticism from President Donald Trump that Ford was shifting production of the compact Focus to Mexico.

Ford canceled construction of the Focus plant in the fourth quarter, but still intends to make the cars in Mexico at an existing plant. The company says no jobs will be lost due to the move because the current Focus plant

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2** 

## View This Week's Edition at http://DetroitAutoScene.com

### Detroit Auto Scene ®

by Jim Stickford

Falcon.)

end.

**AUTO SHOW BONUS CASH** 

Ryan Nagode, chief designer

for Truck, Commercial and Per-

formance Car Interiors at Fiat

Chrysler, has a wide variety of

skills that help design and shape

For fun, he's created a Wookie

costume that allows him to stand

seven feet tall. (For the uniniat-

ed, a Wookie is an alien creature

in the "Star Wars" movies that

is hairy all over and stands taller

than seven feet. The most

famous Wookie is named Chew-

bacca and is the co-pilot of the

Harrison Ford-piloted Millenium

Fiat Chrysler, for 14 years,"

Nagode said. "Normally, I stand

about six feet, one inches tall.

I've always been fascinated by

movie props that have a real

and the skills needed to carry

them off to what we do here at

Fiat Chrysler. It's all about getting

the details right and it's a hands-

on kind of work where you think

things through to their logical

looking at the details, the world-

building that has gone into the

Star Wars movies is impressive.

"And, as someone who enjoys

"The props they've built for

those movies look great, like they

really exist in our world. They

have a well-worn look that gives

a weight that makes them not

terior designer for Fiat Chrysler

have also given him a reputation

as someone who can make great

Halloween costumes. So in 2015,

when "Star Wars - The Force

Awakens" came out in December,

Nagode and his colleagues

decided to have their Christmas

party with a "Star Wars" theme

Nagode said his skills as an in-

look like movie props.'

"I liken those kinds of things

sense of theatricality.

"I've worked for Chrysler, now

vehicle interiors for work.

31201 Chicago Road South Warren, Michigan 48093

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## Ford Hourly to See \$9,000 Bonus

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

near Detroit will build a new small pickup and SUV.

Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks said the company is still trying to gauge the impact that President Trump will have on the company and has taken no actions "since there is no specific policy." Ford expects progrowth policies and a possible corporate tax cut. "It's something we're going to have to watch closely and respond appropriately when specific policies are formulated," Shanks said

For the fourth quarter, Ford said it lost 20 cents per share, but excluding special items, made a 30-cent profit.

That fell just shy of Wall Street estimates. Analysts polled by FactSet expected 31 cents per share.

Quarterly revenue fell 4 percent to \$38.7 billion, but still beat analyst estimates.

The fourth-quarter net loss was Ford's first quarterly red ink since the fourth quarter of 2014.

because it was the same day as the movie came out. That allowed him to show his co-workers his Wookie suit.

"I had origingally put together the suit for Halloween," Nagode said. "But I wasn't able to get it done in time, so the Christmas party allowed me to show them what I did.'

This suit was based off of photographs of Chewbacca, Nagode said. And he did a lot of research on how to make a Wookie costume. He said a quick search online revealed several different Web sites that carry do-ityourself instructions on how to build a Wookie suit. He used a substance called kanekalon to make the Wookie fur.

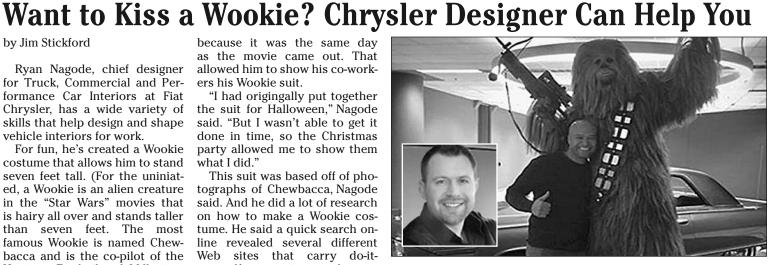
"Kanekalon is used to make wigs," Nagode said. "It's a faux hair product. I tell you, I had to weed out a lot of stuff I saw on forums to come up with my design for my suit. The skills I learned at the Cleveland Institute of Art were helpful. I have a degree in industrial design from there."

Nagode said he grew up in the greater Buffalo, N.Y. town of East Aurora. That part of the country is known for its arts and crafts, he said. There's even a model company called Aurora. His father was an industrial designer in the toy industry, Nagode said, and would take him to work.

"Dad would give me pieces of foam to work on and I would go to town and create stuff," Nagode said. "I liked the hands-on approach and that helped me choose a career path.'

One of the things Nagode learned growing up was how to sew because that's an important part of the toy business, and that came in handy when creating his suit. He is also comfortable around machines.

"Making the costume and de-



Ryan Nagode, inset, acts as a Wookie with colleague Nick Cappa.

signing interiors is all about the details," Nagode said. "In this day and age, when everyone has upped their game, it's the attention to details that make a car more attractive.'

And having the skills to design

helped with the design of his Wookie suit. After all, Nagode said, all kinds of people have to fit inside a Ram truck and people come in different sizes.

That knowledge helped him build a suit with stilts to make an attractive vehicle interior him stand about seven feet tall.

## GM Teams with Girls Group

#### CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

spend time with the students, teaching them about the possibilities and rewards of a STEM education.

GM and GWC aim to combat the decline of women in technology fields, a trend recently highlighted in research from Accenture and GWC, Barra said. The findings reveal that as demand for computing jobs continues to grow, the proportion of women in those jobs will decrease over the next decade.

In fact, the share of women in the computing workforce has dropped from 37 percent in 1995 to 24 percent today, Saujani said. This trend presents a huge challenge for the U.S. economy and its long-term global competitiveness.

Yet the research also points to a significant opportunity: Programs designed specifically to spark and maintain girls' interest from middle school into the workforce such as the GM and GWC partnership - could triple the number of women in the computing workforce in the next 10 years, said GM spokeswoman Jordana Strosberg.

"While we're proud of our progress to date in closing the gender gap in technology, our work is just getting started. It's never been a more urgent time to help our girls succeed in technology and engineering," said Saujani.

"We need more of our daughters to become engineers like Mary Barra, not just because these are good jobs, but because having diverse thinkers in these roles makes our companies more innovative and competitive.

"I'm thrilled that our partnership with GM will help thousands of girls get access to top jobs and they'll get to shape the products and services we use every day."

The Jan. 10 launch event included hands-on workshops led by GM leaders including Julia Steyn, director of MAVEN car-sharing program; Victoria McInnis, vice president of Tax & Audit; Christine Sitek, COO, GCCX Operations; Alicia Boler-Davis, executive vice president of Global Manufacturing; Pam Fletcher, executive chief engineer, Global Electric & Autonomous Vehicles; and Sheri Hickok, executive director, Autonomous Vehicles Business Strategy & Execution Autonomous Partnerships and Fleets.

Barra and Saujani also will gather with the girls for a fireside chat, taking questions and sharing their personal journeys of advancement in technology and engineering.





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# **Detroit Auto Scene**

**JANUARY 30, 2017** 

"FIRST IN THE HEART OF DETROIT SINCE 1933"

PAGE 3



Verrier, left, and Rossi with Championship Driver Trophy

# **BorgWarner Championship Driver Trophy is Awarded**

Chief Executive Officer James R. Verrier presented 2016 Indianapolis 500 winner Alexander Rossi with his first BorgWarner Championship Driver's Trophy during the Automotive News World Congress in early January in Detroit.

Rossi accepted the "Baby Borg," which sports a duplicate of the sterling silver image displayed on the Borg-Warner Trophy. He is the first American rookie to win the Indianapolis 500 since Louis Meyer in 1928. BorgWarner Championship Team Owner's Trophies were also presented to Andretti Herta Autosport owners Michael Andretti and Bryan Herta, said BorgWarner spokeswoman Katya Pruett. This is Andretti's fourth and Herta's second team owner's trophy.

"The 100th running of the Indianapolis 500 was an exhilarating competition won with a patient, determined strategy and intent focus on the finish line," said Verrier. "On behalf of everyone at BorgWarner, we are pleased to present these trophies as symbols of your commitment to excellence. Congratulations on your 2016 victory."

The Baby Borg is something I will take home to remember my Indianapolis 500 win forever," said Rossi. "To be represented throughout history on the Borg-Warner Trophy with all of the past winners is a huge honor. Winning the 100th Indy 500 is something I am very proud of. Hopefully, I can do it again in 2017."

The BorgWarner Championship Driver's Trophy is a unique replica of the Borg-Warner Trophy, Pruett said, and the BorgWarner Championship Driver's Trophy is awarded each year to the winner of the Indianapolis 500. The sterling silver trophy is 14 inches high, weighs 5 pounds and rests on a beveled black marble base. The base is inscribed with the winner's name and year of victory, and includes a handcrafted, three-dimensional sterling silver image of the winner, a duplicate of the image affixed to the fullsized Borg-Warner Trophy. Borg-Warner established the driver's trophy in 1988 to provide the driver with a personal keepsake of their victory. In 1998, the company also established the BorgWarner Championship Team Owner's Trophy as a companion to the driver's trophy, Pruett said. The team owner's trophy is presented to the owner(s) of the winning Indianapolis 500 racing team. Like the driver's trophy, the team owner's trophy is a replica of the

BorgWarner President and Borg-Warner Trophy but features a band of art deco racing cars accented in gold to symbolize the importance of teamwork in the automotive business.

First presented in 1936, the Borg-Warner trophy features the image of every Indianapolis 500 winner sculpted in sterling silver as a tribute to over 100 years of racing history, Pruett said. Since the trophy stands over 5 feet tall and weighs more than 100 pounds, it remains on display at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway Museum, making special appearances during events such as the presentation of the driver's and team owner's trophies at the World Congress.

# Trump Plans 'Overall Positive'- Marchionne

FRANKFURT, Germany (AP) - Fiat Chrysler boss Sergio Marchionne says President Donald Trump's proposals would be "overall positive" for his company's bottom line – but it's hard to say for sure until it's clear which ones will be implemented.

Marchionne said Jan. 26 during a conference call that "the sum of all of them is positive.'

He added, however, that he was "unsure about what part of this proposed package will get rolled out."

Trump urged American auto executives including Marchionne in a meeting Jan. 24 to make more vehicles in the United States.

His proposals include a 35 percent import tax that could disrupt current production arrangements but he has also talked about slashing corporate taxes and regulation.

Marchionne also said discussions were "proceeding well" with United States environmental authorities to get 2017 diesel models certified so they can be sold.

The Environmental Protection Agency toughened testing for diesels from all automakers after Volkswagen was caught equipping cars with software that enabled them to cheat on emissions tests.

That new testing has kept a number of the company's models off the consumer market for the time being. Marchionne said Fiat Chrysler was "in the midst of some pretty intense discussions" on the 2017 vehicles with both the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the powerful California Air Resources Board.

He said the issue could be resolved "relatively quickly."

The United States government accused Fiat Chrysler Jan. 12 of failing to disclose software in some of its pickups and SUVs with diesel engines that allows them to emit more pollution than allowed under the Clean Air Act.

That "notice of violation" affects certain vehicles from thecompany's 2014-2016 model years. Fiat Chrysler has denied wrongdoing.

Marchionne's comments came as Fiat Chrysler reported improved earnings for the fourth quarter and for 2016 as a whole.

For the full year, it saw net profit jump to 1.81 billion euros (\$1.92 billion) from 93 million euros in 2015 as a more profitable model mix and lower costs helped overcome a sales decline in North American markets.

Fiat Chrysler's United States and Canada business increased to 7.4 percent, up from 6.4 percent.

The margin is a key figure for automakers, reflecting how much they are able to earn per vehicle.

The earnings mean an average profit-sharing bonus of \$5,000 for Fiat Chrysler's 40,000 United States workers.



Sergio Marchionne

The bonus money will go to eligible company employees represented by the United Auto Workers' union.

The company also showed improvements in the highly competitive European market, where Fiat Chryser was able to increase its share of sales by 0.4 percentage points.

Profits were also seen to jump at the company's luxury Maserati brand.

For the fourth quarter of 2016, global net profit more than doubled to 409 million euros from 196 million euros in the same quarter a year earlier.

Those reported figures were short of analyst expectations for 610 million euros, as compiled by financial information provider FactSet.







FT 400 Ranking March 2016

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**Trump Proposal Could Cost U.S.** Automakers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

on Mexican-made imports and a "border tax," which would tax companies' imports. That's forcing automakers to consider a number of options.

Abandoning Mexico and moving production to the U.S., as Trump demands, would cost the industry billions and scuttle plans that are years in the making. Audi, for example, just opened a plant in Mexico that it decided to build five years ago.

"It's very difficult to turn on your heels quickly in the auto industry," said manufacturing consultant Laurie Harbour-Felax, president of Harbour Results Inc.

In recent weeks, Volkswagen, GM, Toyota and BMW have all said they won't shift their production plans, while stressing the amount they've invested in the U.S.

BMW, for example, said it's proceeding with a \$1 billion plant in Mexico that will make the 3 Series sedan starting in 2019. The German automaker also noted that its SUV plant in South Carolina is its largest plant worldwide.

Trump's border tax would hurt some automakers more than others. Volkswagen, for example, imports 32 percent of the vehicles it sells in the U.S. from Mexico, according to LMC. But Honda imports just 11 percent, and that's expected to fall this year after it moves production of the CR-V SUV from Mexico to Indiana.

In early January, Ford made the surprise announcement that it would halt construction of a \$1.6 billion plant in Mexico slated to build the compact Focus. It also announced plans to invest \$700 million of that savings into a Michigan plant where it will make new electric and autonomous cars.

Ford said declining sales of small cars, not Trump, influenced the Mexico plant decision, and the company will still make the Focus in Mexico at a different plant. But Ford CEO Mark Fields noted that Trump's promise to lower corporate taxes and ease regulations would make it more attractive to do business in the U.S. Fields also said he's not worried about the possibility of tariffs.

Others appear more nervous. Speaking to reporters at the Detroit auto show, Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said his company might withdraw from Mexico altogether if tariffs got too high.

State's Energy **Agency Offers** 

### New Grants

The Michigan Agency for Energy is now offering grants to manufacturers for innovative energy waste reduction.

Manufacturers can receive up to \$10,000 in technical assistance to implement innovative and commercially available energy waste reduction technologies within their operations.

The Michigan Energy Office is offering matching grants to manufacturers in Michigan to host engineering interns to assist with implementing projects that have measurable reductions in energy costs.

These opportunties will also provide students with the opportunity to gain real-world work experience.

For more information about the available technology implementation assistance grants, contact Roger Doherty at 517-284-8338 or by email, dohertyr1@michigan.gov.

# **Crowds Turn Out for 2017 Auto Show**

The North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) on Jan. 22 wrapped up after two weeks, with more than 800,000 car enthusiasts visiting to see the technology-laden products driving the industry's transformation, said NAIAS spokesman Max Muncey.

The show closed with a strong finish of 98,125 attendees on its last day, bringing total ticketed attendance for 2017 NAIAS to 806,554, Muncey said. Last year's show had 815,575 visitors.

"Detroit is the mobility epicenter of the world, and there's no better example of this than what we've seen and experienced at NAIAS over the past 16 days,' said 2017 NAIAS Chairman Sam Slaughter.

'Visitors to the show were able to experience the full spectrum of the auto industry - from autonomous vehicles and technologies to current production models that will be in dealer showrooms in the near future. It was an incredible showcase for our industry; one that provided a look into the transformation of the world's auto industry.'

NAIAS kicked off 2017 with its inaugural AutoMobili-D, a display of 120 automakers, suppliers and startups from around the world showcasing and discussing future mobility platforms, in addition to 40+ hours of mobilitythemed content at symposiums and panel discussions, Muncey said.

Waymo CEO John Krafcik opened AutoMobili-D with the world reveal of the autonomous Chrysler Pacifica Hybrid. Other notable keynotes included Julia Steyn, GM's vice president of Urban Mobility and Maven.

"AutoMobili-D was an incredible venue for the entire mobility ecosystem, from newly formed startups to tech suppliers to automakers. It allowed each brand an opportunity to communicate directly with over 5,100 journalists and nearly 40,000 industry decision makers," NAIAS **Executive Director Rod Alberts** said. "It was as much about connecting businesses as it was about connecting technologies."

NAIAS attracted 5,101 journal-

ists from 61 countries, Alberts said. Attending media saw 46 vehicles make their world debut, and seven vehicles make their North American debut.

NAIAS officials report the 2017 show has an estimated economic impact of \$450 million to the regional economy, up \$20 million from the previous year.

## Axalta Unveils Paint Color Gallant Gray at NAIAS

Clinton Township, a global supplier of liquid and powder coatings, has unveiled its Automotive Color of the Year 2017 - Gallant Grav.

This color is enhanced by blue and silver flakes that produce a unique sparkle effect and dark undertones that enrich the finish, adding sophistication, said Nancy Lockhart, Axalta Global Color Marketing manager. A yearlong Color of the Year celebration commenced with a variety of events during the 2017 North American International Auto Show (NAIAS) Preview Days in Detroit.

Daily inspirations, coupled with extensive research, helped Axalta color designers and product experts select Gallant Gray as the Automotive Color of the Year, said Lockhart.

A high percentage of the market is interested in a neutral palette and adding slight hints of hues can add life to these colors, said Lockhart. Gallant Grav is designed to look spectacular on any size vehicle, she said. The complex color is dark in value with various sparkling flakes that add depth and color.

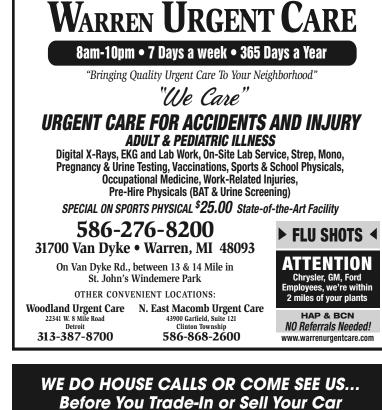
"At Axalta, we monitor automotive trends and forecast how

Axalta Coating Systems of color tastes are changing in the automotive market," said Lockhart. "We are pleased to partner with automakers by using our coatings to give their vehicles beauty and character, and we're confident customers will appreciate Gallant Gray.

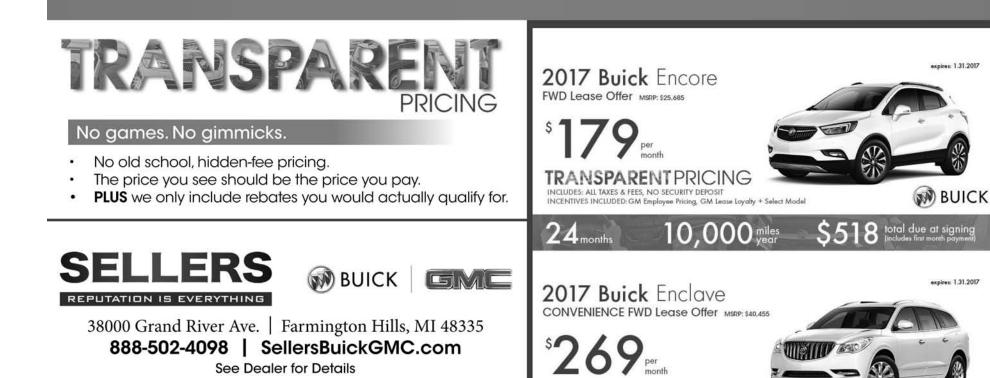
"With hints of blue and green, it exemplifies modernity and elegance. Taking everything into account, we think Gallant Gray is the new silver."

Axalta's recently released 2016 Global Automotive Color Popularity Report, which documents vehicle color trends by geography, showed a rise in the popularity of gray shades around the world, Lockhart said. Neutral colors have dominated the market over the last 10 years.

Although white and black maintained the top positions worldwide, gray is now tied with silver for third place at eleven percent. Gray leads silver in popularity in Europe (by six percent), North America (five percent), and South Korea (seven percent). Gray is most popular in Europe (17 percent), North America (16 percent), South Korea (19 percent), and India (12 percent). Axalta's Global Automotive Color Popularity report is in its 64th consecutive edition.







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## **EXCLUSIVE RECAP ON THE** 2017 NORTH AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL AUTO SHOW #MYDETROITAUTOSHOW

- Behind-the-scenes looks of the show floor, while displays were being created
- Exclusive first looks at all new models and concept vehicles
- A tour of the Automobili-D display (closed for the public show) which focuses on the future of the automotive industry.
- Facebook Live tours from the show floor, taking your questions live!
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# **Ypsilanti Site is Designated Autonomous Test Location**

The United States Department of Transportation on Jan. 19 designated the American Center for Mobility at Willow Run as one of the first national proving grounds in the country.

"We couldn't be more proud and excited, and are ready to lead the safe deployment of automated technologies and vehicles onto our roads," said John Maddox, president and CEO of the American Center for Mobility (ACM).

"Our state-of-the-art global center for testing, education and product development for connected and automated vehicles (CAV) and future mobility fits seamlessly with the USDOT's vision and we are honored to have been selected."

The solicitation of proposals for the designation of the Automated Vehicle Proving Grounds Pilot program was announced in late November by the USDOT and 10 facilities were selected. More than 60 organizations applied to receive the designation, said ACM spokesman Tracey L. Shavers Jr.

"We are committed to continuing our spirit of collaboration and innovation and will lead the discussion on common approaches by convening a group of similar facilities," Maddox said.

"We envision being the national and global hub for CAV technologies supported by Michigan's high concentration of mobility expertise, and we are excited to partner with the USDOT, the State of Michigan, and industry to establish a fully-capable, real-world testing and innovation center that will be instrumental in putting self-driving cars on America's roads safely." Located on 530-plus acres at the famous and innovative Willow Run site, the center will be a purpose-built facility designed for testing, education and product development to enable safe validation and self-certification of CAV technology.

It's also designed to accelerate the development of voluntary standards, leveraging Michigan's mobility expertise.

"The state of Michigan has already established a robust connected vehicle ecosystem by bringing manufacturers, researchers, government officials and other stakeholders together – and ACM will play a central role in this continuing partnership," said Gov. Rick Snyder.

"Michigan is in a leadership position in this arena but we aren't looking to leave anyone behind.

"Instead, we want to be the place where everyone comes together and makes the future happen."

The center will include myriad real-world environments with the ability to test under varied, yet controlled conditions, Shavers said.

The center will offer access to an unmatched range of driving environments and infrastructure including a 2.5-mile highway loop, a 700-foot curved tunnel, two double overpasses, intersections, roundabouts, and a dedicated cellular LTE network.

Additionally, the center's location supports experimentation in varying weather conditions due to Michigan's dynamic climate, and is a short distance from the University of Michigan's Mcity, which was designed for early-stage CAV research and teaching.







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