



**John Waraniak**  
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**SAE Fellow 2019**  
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John Waraniak has been in the aerospace, automotive, racing and performance industries for over 25 years with wide-ranging systems engineering experience, innovative technology insights and frontline lessons for competing and winning in today's Automotive 4.0 transformation. In his role as SEMA's chief technology officer since May 2006, Waraniak helps performance aftermarket companies integrate their products with the latest advanced vehicle technologies and capitalize on new business and product-development opportunities, as well as customize with confidence by connecting SEMA manufacturers with engineering resources, capabilities and tools to manage disruptive vehicle technologies and ensure compliance with the latest industry standards and best practices.

Waraniak has held executive management positions at General Motors, Hughes Aircraft, Northrop and No Fear and is co-chairman and founding member of the SAE Connect2Car Executive Leadership Committee. While at General Motors and Hughes Aircraft, he led the corporate-wide transfer of technology and best practices from Hughes to GM to deliver results for improved safety, performance, electronics and winning motorsports programs. He was one of the founding members of the GM sports medicine and science program, where he helped lead the development of many of today's race safety innovations, including the industry's first crash event data recorders, the critically important HANS device and the first racing heads-up display adapted from military jet-fighter technology.

He was also lead engineer for structural integrity, durability and damage tolerance design on the USAF B-2 stealth bomber program and Aircraft Structural Integrity Program with a top-secret NSA security clearance while at Northrop. He successfully predicted fatigue and fracture results and compliance with Military

Standard MIL-STD-1530D and Air Force Policy Directive 63-10 for aircraft structural integrity of classified mission-critical military fighter and bomber aircraft systems.

He is a devoted advocate for professional development of engineers, next-generation talent pipelines and the digital hot-rod movement connecting generative design with additive manufacturing and spatial web platforms. He is currently a director of the Carroll A. Campbell Jr., Graduate Engineering Center External Advisory Board at Clemson University, member of the Vision Zero Automotive Network Advisory Board and an advisor to the Indy Autonomous Challenge.

Born and raised in the Motor City of Detroit, John is an avid auto industry and motocross enthusiast. He is graduate of the University of Michigan, the University of Illinois and Caltech's Executive Engineering Management Program and was elected an SAE Fellow in October 2019 for his significant technical achievements and mobility industry contributions in both automotive and aerospace.

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