

Career Accelerator

A NEWSLETTER FEATURING THE RECIPIENTS OF THE 2004 GLOBAL AUTOMOTIVE AFTERMARKET SYMPOSIUM SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Assuring A Strong Talent Pool Scholarships Awarded To 145

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Profiles: 2004 U.S. Scholarship Winners

2

The Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium (GAAS) continues its work to ensure a strong future talent pool for automotive aftermarket companies and service outlets through its highly successful scholarship program. A total of 145 students will receive \$1,000 GAAS scholarships in 2004, with the majority of recipients entering automotive vocational-technical programs, which will help address the critical shortage of automotive technicians.

In the eight years of the scholarship, 901 students have received aid totaling nearly \$920,000. Of the 145 scholarships given this year, 17 were awarded to Canadian students.

“The sheer number of scholarships the program has awarded is impressive, but what is even more impressive is the fact that 75 percent of past recipients now have careers in the automotive aftermarket, said Peter Kornafel, chairman of the GAAS Scholarship Selection Committee. “These numbers demonstrate the importance of the program and are evidence why the industry is strongly en-



The annual GAAS educational program helps fund scholarships for deserving automotive students.

couraged to contribute even greater resources toward the program. Assuring our future begins today.”

The scholarships are available to students in two-year technical college programs and

GAAS Scholarships are helping address the automotive industry's critical shortage of technicians needed to help repair today's modern, computer-controlled vehicles.

vocational schools and four-year college programs. To be eligible for a GAAS scholarship, applicants must be enrolled full-time in a college-level program or a NATEF (National Automotive Technician Education Foundation)

accredited automotive technical program. Graduate programs and part-time undergraduate programs do not qualify.

The GAAS scholarship is also unique in that recipients can receive two financial grants: one while in school to assist with tuition and an equivalent grant awarded to all scholarship recipients who graduate from their program and show proof of employment as a technician in the automotive aftermarket for at least six months after graduation.

GAAS Scholarship applications for 2005 will be available Wednesday, September 1 from the industry associations who sponsor GAAS. Applicants can also contact Jobie Dowd of MEMA at 919-549-4800 or jdowd@mema.org for applications.

For more information on the scholarship or to download an application form, applicants can also go to www.automotivescholarships.com. Deadline for 2005 scholarship applications is Thursday, March 31, 2005. ♦

ANNUAL EVENT MAKES AWARDS POSSIBLE

The annual investment to help develop future aftermarket industry leaders is primarily funded through proceeds from the annual Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium (GAAS). This two-day program brings together numerous industry executives and examines the issues and trends affecting the automotive aftermarket industry and influencing its future. GAAS has become the aftermarket's premier educational conference. The 2005 event is set for Wednesday and Thursday, May 11-12, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Chicago, Ill. Details are at: www.globalsymposium.org

2004 U.S. Scholarship Winners

The recipients of the 2004 GAAS Scholarship program represent a diverse group of students. They include both women and men, and many different ethnic races. In addition, the U.S. winners represent both rural and urban areas and most of the 50 states. This year's winners include 94 students who are enrolled in vocational-technical or 2-year community college programs, with most planning careers as technicians. 34 recipients are attending 4-year academic programs. Also, 17 Canadian students are recipients of a GAAS Scholarship. Here are profiles of just a few of the many students who were awarded scholarships this year.



Hoyt "Chip" Brindle

Student to attend NASCAR School

Looking at Chip Brindle's background you can see that the automotive world has been part of his world for practically his entire life. His family owns Brindle Bros. Auto Parts in Chatsworth, Ga. and Brindle has been racing go-karts and race cars since the age of 7.



"My automotive training started at an early age," says Brindle. "My Dad owns an auto parts store and when I got old enough to reach the shelves, my job was to put up the stock. I already knew my numbers and alphabet from hands on experience."

In racing, Brindle holds track championships in Georgia, Tennessee, and Alabama in go-karts. He has also raced in the hobby class at his local track, winning championships in 2002 and 2003. His dream is to become a NASCAR driver.

At Murray County High School, Brindle was a member of the National Honor Society, Beta Club and Key Club. Whether or not NASCAR is part of his future, he wants to be a technician back in Georgia. ♦

Stacy Farnlund

VICA Student Plans Auto Body Career

Stacy Farnlund is currently a student at Boise State University College of Applied Technology. She has plans after graduation of working as an auto body technician. Eventually, though she hopes to be an auto body teacher at the high school level. But her plans have not always been so definite.

"When I started high school, I took small engines as an elective class, because I thought it would be fun," said Farnlund, "which it was. It made me learn how to fix an engine in a lawn mower, Jet Ski, four wheeler, etc. After that class I could either take auto mechanics or auto body, and I decided on auto body. After my first year in auto body, I found that this I where my passion was, in fixing cars and making them look new again."

Farnlund is a 2003 graduate of Meridian High School in Meridian, Idaho. During high school she was president of the Skills USA VICA chapter and was heavily involved in community service. After earning above average grades in high school, she has excelled in auto body program at Boise State University earning a place on the honor roll and Dean's list.

"I feel the automotive field will just keep getting bigger...and I plan on being part of it," she says. ♦

Jackson Hall

National Honor Student Plans Career As Technician

Already in his young career as an automotive technician, Jackson Hall has received ASE certification in steering and suspension, brakes, heating and air conditioning, engine repair and engine performance. A native of Middleton, Wisc., Hall is a 2002 graduate of Middletown High School where he made the National Honor Society. Hall is enrolled at Madison Area Technical College (MATC) in the automotive technician program with plans to become a full-time technician.

Donald Schinker, automotive program director at MATC, says that Hall has been an exceptional student. "He is a role model for others around him as he exhibits good work ethics, as well as excellent communication skills." ♦

