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Support the Future of the Automotive Aftermarket: Challenge Issued to Match GAAS Scholarship Fund Donations

Research Triangle Park, N.C. – With the cost of post-secondary education continuing to rise, investing in the future of the automotive aftermarket has never been more important. To help support students seeking scholarships through the Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium (GAAS) Scholarships, a challenge has been issued to the industry.

Peter Kornafel, chairman of the GAAS Scholarship Selection Committee, and his wife, Annie, have stepped forward to show their support for the industry's future by issuing a challenge. The Kornafels will match 100 percent of each donation to the GAAS Scholarship fund received before the end of the annual Symposium on Thursday, May 7, up to \$15,000 in total. Each donation of \$1,000 or more will receive a 2009 scholarship named in that person's honor.

"Annie and I have been strong supporters of higher education and the GAAS Scholarships for years," said Kornafel. "It is our privilege to increase our commitment to the aftermarket industry this year. The economy has put pressure on funds available to GAAS in a year when the students need the money more than ever."

Contributions can be made to the GAAS Scholarship Fund, c/o Susan Medick at AAIA, at 301-654-6664, or susan.medick@aftermarket.org. Donor cards also will be issued to attendees at GAAS, slated for Wednesday and Thursday, May 6-7, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare, Chicago. Program details and online registration are available at www.globalsymposium.org.

We have received more than 200 completed applications from students pursuing automotive careers for the 2009-2010 scholarship awards," Kornafel noted. "We want to ensure that we are able to assist as many of these future aftermarket employees as possible in reaching their goals."

For 2009, additional funding has been pledged by:

- Art Fisher Memorial Scholarship Fund
- ASE / Michael Busch Memorial Scholarships
- Breslow Foundation Scholarships
- Leadership Development Network of AAIA (LDN)
- R.L. Polk & Co.
- Udell Family Charitable Foundation
- University of the Aftermarket Foundation
- Zurich

In 2008, a total of 150 students were awarded 170 scholarships by the GAAS scholarship fund, its contributors and other groups collaborating with GAAS. Individual scholarships ranged from \$250 to \$2,000 and more than \$165,000 was awarded.

GAAS scholarships were awarded to 115 recipients in 2008, including 10 awards received by students from Canada. In its 14-year history, the GAAS scholarship fund has presented more than \$1.4 million in awards to approximately 1,400 students. The annual investment to develop future automotive aftermarket industry leaders is funded through proceeds from the annual Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium.

In 2008, an additional 55 scholarships were awarded by the following organizations:

- AAACT – Automotive Aftermarket Association of the Carolinas and Tennessee (regional association for residents of North and South Carolina and Tennessee)
- AAAS – Automotive Aftermarket Association Southeast (regional association for residents of Alabama, Georgia, and Mississippi)
- ADS - Association of Diesel Specialists
- APSA – Automotive Parts & Services Association (regional association for residents of Arkansas, Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas and Wyoming)
- APSA of IL – Automotive Parts and Service Association of Illinois (regional association for residents of Illinois)
- CAWA – California/Arizona/Nevada Automotive Wholesaler’s Association (regional association for residents of Arizona, California and Nevada)
- OVAAA - Ohio Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association (regional association for residents of Ohio and West Virginia)

About the Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium

The annual two-day Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium brings together industry leaders and experts to examine the issues and trends affecting the automotive aftermarket and influencing its future. The 2009 event is set for Wednesday and Thursday, May 6-7, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago, Ill. More details are at www.globalsymposium.org.

About the GAAS Scholarship Program

The GAAS program is a joint professional education effort of the Alliance of State Automotive Aftermarket Associations (ASAAA), Automotive Aftermarket Industry Association (AAIA), Automotive Aftermarket Suppliers Association (AASA), Automotive Industries Association (AIA) of Canada, Automotive Parts Rebuilders Association (APRA), Automotive Service Association (ASA), Automotive Warehouse Distributors Association (AWDA), Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA), Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), Tire Industry Association (TIA) and University of the Aftermarket.

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