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**2010 GAAS Scholarship Applicants Available for Corporate Scholarships;
Aftermarket Businesses with Scholarship Funds, Foundations
*Urged to Contact Pete Kornafel by Annual Symposium***

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C. – The Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium Scholarship Web site received nearly 400 completed applications in 2010 for students planning automotive aftermarket careers – and these applications are now available for aftermarket businesses with corporate scholarship foundations and funds.

“We’re pleased to offer the industry access to these outstanding candidates through the GAAS Scholarship site as another means of continuing to attract talented qualified aftermarket employees for the future of our industry,” noted Pete Kornafel, GAAS scholarship chairman.

Aftermarket businesses interested in presenting an existing corporate scholarship or developing a new scholarship will have a pre-qualified pool of candidates available for review. “We can create a specific database of applicants based on the company’s scholarship specifications, whether based on financial need, state of residence, proposed field of study, academic achievement, secondary school of choice ... any combination of these factors and more,” Kornafel said. “The desired database can ready for review online almost immediately. The selection can be made from the pool of qualified applicants by either a committee from the aftermarket scholarship sponsor or by the GAAS Scholarship Selection Committee, according to the sponsor’s wishes. If the sponsor chooses to select its own candidate, its judges will receive log-in information for the secure Web site,” he added.

Representatives of aftermarket business scholarship foundations should contact Pete Kornafel, pete@carquest.com, for more information by Monday, May 17 – prior to the beginning of the Global Automotive Aftermarket Symposium (GAAS), slated for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 18-19, in Chicago.

In 2009, a total of 75 students – 68 in the United States and seven in Canada – were awarded scholarships by the GAAS scholarship fund and its contributors. Another 41 awards were made by other groups collaborating with GAAS. 10 students received multiple awards. Individual scholarships ranged from \$250 to \$2,000. A second round of donations in July was made possible by donations of more than \$10,000 at GAAS 2009. In its 14-year history, the fund has presented more than \$1.4 million in awards to approximately 1,400 students.

Collaborative efforts with state associations and other automotive groups include:

- Automotive Aftermarket Association of the Carolinas and Tennessee (AAACT)
- Automotive Aftermarket Association Southeast (AAAS)
- Association of Diesel Specialists (ADS)
- Automotive Parts & Services Association (APSA)
- Automotive Parts and Service Association of Illinois (APSA of IL)
- Arizona/California/Nevada Automotive Wholesaler's Association (CAWA)
- Kentucky / Indiana Automotive Wholesalers Association (KIAWA)
- New York State Automotive Aftermarket Association (NYSAAA)
- Ohio Valley Automotive Aftermarket Association (OVAAA)

Each of these other collaborating groups has their own criteria and selects their own recipients for their scholarships.

Additional scholarship funding comes from industry contributions from individuals, companies and foundations. Contributions can be made to the GAAS Scholarship Fund, c/o Susan Medick at AAIA, at 301-654-6664, or susan.medick@aftermarket.org.

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 2010 event is set for Tuesday and Wednesday, May 18-19, at the Hyatt Regency O'Hare in Chicago, Ill. 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), Motorist Assurance Program (MAP), Motor & Equipment Manufacturers Association (MEMA), Specialty Equipment Market Association (SEMA), Tire Industry Association (TIA) and University of the Aftermarket.

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