

DRIVE YOUR FUTURE



(NAPSA)—According to the U.S. Census Bureau, graduates with a bachelor's degree earn over 62 percent more on average than those with only a high school diploma. And while the increased earning potential of obtaining a postsecondary education is evident, how to pay for that education remains a challenge for millions of students each year.

Although financial aid packages are available to many students, supplemental funds are often needed to offset tuition and school expenses. For students seeking financial aid, Scholarship America, the nation's largest non-profit, private sector scholarship and educational support organization suggests looking to the private sector.

Several corporations offer scholarship programs, some with specific criteria for which students just might be a good fit. For instance, Mercedes-Benz USA offers the annual DRIVE YOUR FUTURE Scholarship Program, awarding \$1 million in scholarship funding to students who will be the first generation in their families to attend college. From Jan. 4 through Feb. 10, 2006, students can submit an online application at www.mbusa.com/drivefuture.

To search open scholarships and identify other scholarship resources, students may also visit www.scholarshipamerica.org, and click "For Students."

Scholarship America has distributed more than one billion dollars to more than one million students by helping communities and corporations establish scholarship programs. Mercedes-Benz USA's DRIVE YOUR FUTURE Scholarship Program aims to provide educational opportunities to college-bound students.

Note to Editors: Please do not run after Feb 10, 2006.