

KOKOMO TRIBUNE

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Chrysler grant supports technology

High school graduates will benefit

By **TRACI MOYER**
Tribune business writer

Thanks to the generosity of the Daimler-Chrysler Corporation Fund, Howard County high school graduates are in line for funding for a technical vocation.

"I can't tell you how grateful we are for DaimlerChrysler's contribution to the community," said Greg Aaron, president of Kokomo/Howard County Development Corp. "It is also very timely with the economic development and strategic plan we have in place and with what we are trying to do here at Inventrek - everything fits very nicely together for us."

Inventrek Technology Park is a high-tech incubator to help new technology companies in

developing technology-based initiatives with support services and professional guidance.

Chrysler awarded a \$50,000 grant to KHDC and Partners in Education to establish a scholarship program to help students in Kokomo and Howard County pursue a technical education.

Aaron said KHDC is working in conjunction with Partners in Education to determine the criteria for scholarship eligibility.

"We hope to award five \$1,000 scholarships annually up to 10 scholarships until the fund is depleted," Aaron said.

Minimum requirements for the grant include being a Howard County resident, completion of high school, being 21 or younger at the time of the application and being enrolled in vocational or college courses for technical education at an accredited institution.

Examples of institutions with the correct accreditation include community colleges, trade schools or a four-year-colleges Aaron said.

"Scholarships will not automatically be renewed, but students will be eligible to re-apply in subsequent years," he said.

This is the first distribution of a scholarship for KHDC and Aaron said while they are always looking for additional opportunity for resources, the corporation wants to make this one as successful as possible.

"This was just an opportunity that was out there for us to take advantage of and we want to see if we can take this one and grow it first," Aaron said.

Applications for the scholarships will be distributed to area counselors for fall semesters, but anyone looking for additional information can call Aaron or Cathy Irick at KHDC 457-2000.

"It's that time of year for students to be applying for scholarships," Aaron said.