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## **Arkansas Trucking Association accepting applications for 2020 Carl Tapp Technician Scholarship**

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. - Arkansas Trucking Association is pleased to announce it is accepting applications for a college scholarship opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career as a medium and heavy duty truck technician. ATA has established the Carl Tapp Memorial Scholarship Fund to encourage growth in the state's technician workforce and to help assure that the safest, most knowledgeable and skilled technicians are working on the trucks and trailers on our nation's roads.

Applicants must be graduating seniors from accredited high schools. Two scholarships for up to \$7,500 will be awarded for students attending a two-semester (30-hour minimum) medium and heavy duty truck technician program at an Arkansas institution.

"We are excited to be a part of training up the next generation of technical experts in transportation," said Shannon Newton, ATA president. "There is a desperate need for well-educated truck technicians to care for the complex machines that carry freight on our highways. This is more than a scholarship; it's an education to unlock a career that will ensure the safety and progress in our state."

In 2016, ATA's Maintenance & Technology Council Committee formed the Technician Curriculum Advisory Committee to partner with educational institutions around the state to help shape programs that will provide a skilled labor force now and into the future.

The Advisory Committee formed the Carl Tapp Memorial Scholarship Fund to encourage young bright minds to pursue a path to success as technicians in the trucking industry. The scholarship is named for the late Carl Tapp, the Council's first chairman, who was known for recognizing and empowering talent in the next generation of technicians.

"Carl meant so much to the industry and touched so many lives. By supporting technician students financially, we hope to honor his passion for recognizing and encouraging new talent in the field to make the workforce stronger and more sustainable," said Tapp's colleague Kenneth Calhoun, fleet optimization manager at Altec.

Applications will be accepted through March 30, 2020, and ATA plans to name recipients by May 1 for students beginning coursework in August 2020 or January 2021, based on individual program requirements. Contact Sarah Sheets ([sarahsheets@arkansastrucking.com](mailto:sarahsheets@arkansastrucking.com)) for more information about the Scholarship Fund, and find the application at [www.arkansastrucking.com/tech-scholarship](http://www.arkansastrucking.com/tech-scholarship).

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The Arkansas Trucking Association (ATA) is a statewide business league comprised of approximately 300 trucking companies and service companies to serve as the political and public relations arm of the trucking industry. The ATA has continuously served the Arkansas trucking industry in this capacity since its incorporation in 1932.