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## **Arkansas Trucking Association announces technician scholarship recipient**

LITTLE ROCK, ARK. – The Arkansas Trucking Association is pleased to announce the 2020 recipient of the Carl Tapp Memorial Scholarship Fund. High school senior Hugh “Mac” McConnell IV of Central Arkansas Christian will receive \$7,500 to pursue training for a career in medium/heavy duty truck technology.

“Truck drivers and diesel technicians are essential to the Arkansas economy and way of life. One in twelve working Arkansans have a career in trucking. We owe the success of our industry and state to a professional, smart, capable, problem-solving workforce,” says Shannon Newton, president of the Arkansas Trucking Association. “We welcome this year’s scholarship recipient into our industry where he will learn to ensure the safety of trucking equipment on the roads we all share.”

While at Central Arkansas Christian High School, Mac McConnell has served as a project manager for various missions programs. He was involved in archery, trapshooting team, football as well as service projects with the City of North Little Rock and Recycle Bikes. McConnell grew up working in his family’s trucking company. This fall, he plans to attend Arkansas State University at Beebe.

“This year’s crop of applicants was outstanding. We had students from across the state with excellent credentials,” says Kenneth Calhoun, founding member of the scholarship committee. “Ultimately the committee had to take on the challenging task of making a selection. Mac rose to the top, and when the process was complete, the choice was clear. We are excited at the prospect of having this fine young man join our industry. It will be exciting to see his contributions to the field.”

The Arkansas Trucking Association’s Maintenance & Technology Council established the Carl Tapp Memorial Scholarship Fund to celebrate Carl Tapp, the council’s first chairman, and his career-long commitment to nurturing new talent in the industry. The Fund is intended to enable and encourage growth in the state’s diesel 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. Candidates were evaluated based upon their interest and performance in STEM courses, teacher and mentor recommendations and personal interviews with the scholarship committee of industry experts.

This scholarship has been made possible by the vision and investment in the future of trucking in Arkansas by the following companies and individuals: ArcBest Companies, Bruce Purkey, DAVCO Technology, Doggett Freightliner of Arkansas, Kenneth Calhoun, Maverick Transportation, McKee Foods Transportation, Pressure Systems International, Summit Truck Group, TechForce Foundation, The Tapp Family, Truck Centers of Arkansas, Truck-Lite Co., and Walt Luethy. Contact Sarah Sheets ([sarahsheets@arkansastrucking.com](mailto:sarahsheets@arkansastrucking.com)) for more information about the Scholarship Fund.

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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.