The Catawba Valley Traffic Club, during its Feb. 19 meeting in Hickory, officially established the endowment of the Tony Pope Memorial Scholarship, which was presented to the Foundation of Caldwell Community College and Technical Institute. The gift will ensure ongoing support for scholarships to CCC&TI's Truck Driver Training program, which provides training in Caldwell, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell and Rutherford counties.

"It is only fitting that we honor Tony Pope with this scholarship because of his tremendous involvement in philanthropy and the trucking industry," said Glenn Morrison, Employee Relations for Cargo Transporters, Inc., on behalf of the Catawba Valley Traffic Club.

Pope served as President of Catawba Truck Rental before becoming President and then Chairman of Cargo Transporters. In the industry, he was four-time president of the North Carolina Car and Truck Renting and Leasing Association; director and chairman of the Board for the American Truck Leasing network, director of Catawba Valley Traffic Club, director for the NC Industries for Technical Education, and director and chairman of the NC Trucking Association. Also, he was active in the community through such organizations as the Newton-Conover Rotary Club, Catawba Valley Chamber of Commerce, St. Mark's Church, United Way, Jaycees, County Foresight Committee, Economic Development Commission, the YMCA, Catawba Valley Medical Center and others.

Marla Christie, Executive Director of the Foundation of CCC&TI, is grateful for the gift and the support it provides to one of the college's most popular programs.

"This gift will not only live on to honor Tony Pope, but will truly make a difference for our truck driver training students," Christie said. "We are thankful for your generosity and longtime support of CCC&TI."

The Foundation of CCC&TI is a nonprofit organization, incorporated in 1970, to support the college and its students. Funds go toward a variety of scholarships, as well as student aid such as child care, emergency assistance, counseling, academic support and work-study opportunities.

For more information about the Tony Pope Memorial Scholarship for Truck Driver Training students, or any other Foundation-supported scholarship or program, call 726-2260.

Photo Caption:

Pictured left to right are: Peg Broyhill, chair of the Foundation of CCC&TI, Glenn Morrison, chair of the Catawba Valley Traffic Club, Marla Christie, executive director of the Foundation of CCC&TI, and Michael Sharp, president of the Catawba Valley Traffic Club.