



The Ronny Tipps Scholarship

For an interpreter or translator with financial
need

[Click here to apply](#)

The Ronny Tipps Memorial Scholarship is a **need-based scholarship designed to support an interpreter or translator who is beginning their professional journey**. The recipient will receive a one-year TAPIT membership and complimentary registration for the 2026 TAPIT Conference, taking place November 7–8 in Johnson City, with a virtual attendance option available.

This scholarship honors the memory of Mr. Ronny Tipps. When Ronny married TAPIT co-founder Marvyn Bacigalupo-Tipps, he embraced not only Marvyn but the entire TAPIT family. The scholarship celebrates his tireless dedication, kindness, enthusiasm, and many contributions to TAPIT and its community.

Mr. Ronald (Ronny) Tipps served in the U.S. Army Security Agency as a radio intercept officer in Japan for 7 years. He later worked for TVA as a power plant engineer. Ronny's language specialty was Japanese-English translation and interpretation. Ronny's legacy also includes his dedication to his family and his fearless yet peaceful fight with his illness.

In recognition of his enormous contribution to our organization, Ronny was honored as a beloved Lifetime Member of TAPIT. He served as TAPIT's webmaster as well as communications director and Membership and Elections chair.



The Ardis Nelson Scholarship

For a full-time student or recent graduate of
a Language Program

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The Ardis Nelson Scholarship is designed to support a **student or recent graduate who is interested in pursuing a career in interpreting or translation**. The recipient will receive a one-year TAPIT membership and complimentary registration for the TAPIT Conference, taking place November 7–8 in Johnson City, with a virtual attendance option available.

This scholarship honors the memory of Dr. Ardis Nelson and recognizes her many contributions to the interpreting and translation profession, as well as her dedication to teaching, mentoring, and inspiring new generations of language professionals.

Dr. Ardis Nelson served as a Board Member and Secretary for TAPIT from 2007 to 2013. As a Certified Medical and Court Interpreter, her most enduring contributions were at East Tennessee State University (ETSU) in Johnson City, where she dedicated 23 years to creating vital interpretation and translation resources. Most notably, she initiated the Applied Spanish/ Community Studies Minor, established the Language and Culture Resource Center (LCRC), and founded *El Nuevo Tennessean*, a bilingual English-Spanish yearly publication that provided students with hands-on translation experience.

Throughout her 75 years, Dr. Nelson enriched her community through her peaceful and generous spirit. She had a passion for travel, film, and the arts, and was an avid hiker, living fully in all areas of her life.