



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**46 Students Awarded Scholarships by the Retail Consumer Alliance Foundation (RCA)  
Over \$100k Will Be Given to NC Communities through Scholarships**

*Raleigh, NC (June 10, 2015)* – Writing tuition checks just became a little easier for 46 students who were awarded \$2,500 scholarships by the retail industry.

The NC Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA) (<http://www.ncrma.org/>), a nonprofit trade association, and its grocery division, the Carolinas Food Industry Council (CFIC) (<http://www.cficweb.org>), are helping college students pursue their career dreams. The two organizations, through the Retail Consumer Alliance Foundation (RCA), will give away over \$100,000 in scholarships this year for the 2015 fall semester.

“Retail generates 17% of labor income in the state, and these jobs aren’t all behind a cash register,” said NCRMA President and General Counsel Andy Ellen. “Retail powers North Carolina’s economy with both large and small employers, supporting over 600,000 jobs at headquarters and distribution centers. It also works with education to reach the same goals, including a strong and sustainable job market driven by competitive innovation. By supporting higher education goals, we can connect students to opportunities in the economy.”

The awards were offered to high school and college students that work in the retail industry or whose parents work in the retail industry. For more information on the scholarship program’s application requirements, go to: <http://www.retailpaysforcollege.org>.

**2015 Scholarship Recipients (in alpha order):**

**Kensleigh Ables, of Wilmington, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence\**  
Sponsoring Retailer: Lowes Foods\*\*  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Kathryn Alexander, of Chapel Hill, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Nicole Autry, of Benson, NC** - *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Carlie C’s IGA  
Plans to attend Campbell University

**Courtney Batts, of Apex, NC** – *Retail Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Insurance Professionals Inc.  
Plans to attend Meredith College

**Brandon Barrentine, of Raleigh, NC** - *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Food Lion  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Aidan Blake, of Chapel Hill, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter  
Plans to attend Duke University

**Grant Braam, of Chapel Hill, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Cecily Buckner, of Candler, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.  
Plans to attend Appalachian State University

**Diana Burden, of Fort Mill, SC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter  
Plans to attend Clemson University

**Sarah Byers, of Huntersville, NC** – *Retail Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: The Pantry Inc.  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Jasmynn Cobb, of Raleigh, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**Nikki Collin, of Rutherfordton, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.  
Plans to attend Appalachian State University

**Taylor Cook, of Burlington, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Food Lion  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Katherine Dalton, of Sparta, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Alex Lee Inc. and Lowes Foods  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Nathaniel Elliott, of Greensboro, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailers: Food Lion and Harris Teeter

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Sierra Fender, of Fletcher, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Sarah Gooch, of Asheboro, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Just Save Foods

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Greensboro

**Jennifer Heiden, of Raleigh, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter

Plans to attend the University of Michigan

**Carly Hildebrand of Charleston, SC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter

Plans to attend the University of South Carolina

**Nicholas Hunt, of Hickory, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Market Basket Food Stores

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**Meredith Johnson, of Boiling Springs, SC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.

Plans to attend Clemson University

**Mollie Jones, of Hendersonville, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.

Plans to attend Western Carolina University

**Elexsys Junious, of Whiteville, NC** – *Retail Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Food Lion

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Anna Kaplan, of Waxhaw, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter

Plans to attend Seattle University

**Anna Camille Kee, of Ayden, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Piggly Wiggly

Plans to attend East Carolina University

**Peyton Lashley, of Whiteville, NC** – *Retail Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Walmart

Plans to attend East Carolina University

**Nathaniel Lerner, of Wake Forest, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Lowes Foods

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Stephanie Marlowe, of Charlotte, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter

Plans to attend Liberty University

**Marissa McNeace, of Union, SC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Piggy Wiggly

Plans to attend Winthrop University

**Christopher Mims, of Pamplico, SC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Floco Foods Inc.

Plans to attend the University of South Carolina

**Courtney Nelson, of Concord, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter

Plans to attend Johnson & Wales University

**Assem Patel, of Rutherfordton, NC** – *Retail Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: BI-LO

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Jessica Prall, of Hampstead, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter

Plans to attend Campbell University

**Sarah Riley, of Holly Springs, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter

Plans to attend North Carolina State University

**Ethan Sallaz, of Concord, NC** – *Retail Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Rite Aid

Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

**Cecily Schenimann, of Fletcher, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.

Plans to attend Liberty University

**Sydney Shuping, of Morganton, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*

Sponsoring Retailer: BI-LO Foods

Plans to attend North Carolina State University

**Zachary Singletary, of Roper, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Piggly Wiggly  
Plans to attend Elizabeth City State University

**Michael Sirio, of Deep Run, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Piggly Wiggly  
Plans to attend North Carolina State University

**Trevor Smith, of Horse Shoe, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Nicholas Stadler, of Reidsville, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Lowes Foods  
Plans to attend North Carolina State University

**Gabrielle Thifault, of Monroe, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Harris Teeter  
Plans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Sierra Tolbert, of Fayetteville, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Food Lion  
Plans to attend Duke University

**Shatina Williams, of Tarboro, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Piggly Wiggly  
Plans to attend Everest University Online

**John Wilson, of Asheville, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.  
Plans to attend North Carolina State University

**Cari Youngblood, of Fletcher, NC** – *Everett and Trudy Suddreth Scholarship of Excellence*  
Sponsoring Retailer: Ingles Markets Inc.  
Plans to attend Western Carolina University

Funding for the 46 scholarships is provided through the NC Retail Consumer Alliance Foundation, a nonprofit retail foundation that works with consumers to build strong communities. For more information visit [www.retailpaysforcollege.com](http://www.retailpaysforcollege.com).

\* *The Everett & Trudy Suddreth Scholarships of Excellence are specific to the grocery industry.*  
\*\* *Sponsoring retailers are the member companies who either employ the student or parents of the student.*

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**About RCA** – The Retail Consumer Alliance Foundation (RCA) was organized in 2008 to foster strong community partnerships between consumers and the retail industry. Every year, the foundation funds an annual educational scholarship program that assists students who are working in the retail industry or students who have parents working in retail, by providing awards that pay for college tuition. The foundation also contributes annually to the Feeding America Food Banks for North and South Carolina. RCA, in partnership with the NC Retail Merchants Association and the National Retail Federation, launched recently an awareness campaign to challenge common misconceptions in the retail industry. Think You Know Retail? Think Again. [www.thisisretailnc.org](http://www.thisisretailnc.org); [www.thisisretail.org](http://www.thisisretail.org).

**About CFIC** -- A trade organization with members from both North and South Carolina whose mission is to improve the public image, effectiveness and profitability of retailer and supplier companies in the food industry. CFIC represents the food industry perspective to elected officials in both Raleigh and Columbia. Its membership includes all major retail chain stores as well as a large number of independent grocers. Visit our website at [www.cficweb.org](http://www.cficweb.org) to learn more.

**About NCRMA** - The North Carolina Retail Merchants Association (NCRMA) is a non-profit trade association that was organized in 1902 to improve the business climate for retail merchants in our state. Over 100 years later, NCRMA is still the voice of the retail industry in North Carolina. The Association's membership includes more than 25,000 stores from across the state, representing 75 percent of North Carolina's retail sales volume. About 60 percent of NCRMA members are independent stores. NCRMA serves both large and small retailers from multi-state chains to local independents and all types of merchants such as antique, apparel, art, automotive, book, carpet, department, drug, electronics, floral, furniture, grocery, hardware, jewelry, paint and variety stores. [www.ncrma.org](http://www.ncrma.org); [www.thisisretailnc.org](http://www.thisisretailnc.org)