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Seth Petersen  
Director, Marketing & Communications  
Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association  
seth@vrlta.org | 804.288.3065

**Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Education Foundation Awards Scholarships to Ten Virginia Students**

**Richmond, Va. – August 31, 2016** – The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Education Foundation (VRLTAEF), in partnership with the National Restaurant Association Education Foundation (NRAEF), has distributed \$11,500 in scholarship awards to ten Virginia students. They include six first-year collegians, one second-year, two third-year, and one fourth-year.

The annual grants are provided to students that reside in Virginia and who have shown a passion for and commitment to the foodservice and/or hospitality industries and intend to pursue or continue higher education opportunities in those fields.

“Congratulations to all of our Award Recipients,” said VRLTA Director of Education & Workforce Development, Jim Wilson. “The future of Virginia’s restaurant and hospitality industry is today’s students. We wish them the best of luck and look forward to seeing what they accomplish next.”

In the last two years VRLTAEF, which receives near dollar-for-dollar-matching from the NRAEF, has awarded \$23,000 in scholarships to 18 students.

**2016 Scholarship Recipients**

- Kerry Callender from Hampton, Virginia, who is entering her third year at the Culinary Institute of Virginia (CIV) studying Foodservice Management.
- Delaney Edwards from Abingdon, Virginia, who is entering her first year at Virginia Tech studying Hospitality & Tourism Management.
- Ana Flores from North Chesterfield, Virginia, who is entering her first year at Johnson & Wales University studying Culinary Arts.
- Jamyce Freeman from Chesapeake, Virginia, who is entering her first year at the CIV studying Culinary Arts.
- Kyla Lord-Barrett from Richmond, Virginia, who is entering her first year at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA) studying Culinary Arts.
- Sara Louizi from Alexandria, Virginia, who is entering her second year at the Northern Virginia Community College studying Hospitality Management.
- Daniel Pinard from Salem, Virginia, who is entering his fourth year at Virginia Tech studying Hospitality & Tourism Management.

- Anthony Russell from Colonial Heights, Virginia, who is entering his first year at Liberty University studying Nutrition.
- Elizabeth Sauter from Chesapeake, Virginia, who is entering her third year at George Mason University studying Hospitality Management.
- Jordan Whorley from Dillwyn, Virginia who is entering her first year at Piedmont Virginia Community College studying Culinary Arts.

The VRLTAEF is hosting its Inaugural Richmond Cornhole for Colleges and its Fourth Annual Northern Virginia Cornhole for Colleges fundraisers on September 14 and September 29, respectively. The events will raise money for the 2017 VRLTAEF Scholarship program.

To learn more about the Education Foundation or the fundraiser, visit [VRLTA.org/Cornhole](http://VRLTA.org/Cornhole).

***About the Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association Education Foundation (VRLTAEF)***

*As the educational arm of the Virginia, Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association, the VRLTA exists to enhance the restaurant and hospitality industries' through education and encouraging youth to pursue post-secondary education in the culinary and hospitality fields. This is primarily done through the coordination of the Virginia ProStart program and the administration of a scholarship program. For more information on the VRLTAEF, visit [VRLTA.org/VRLTAEF](http://VRLTA.org/VRLTAEF).*

***About Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association (VRLTA)***

*The Virginia Restaurant, Lodging & Travel Association is the only unified voice for the restaurant, lodging, travel and hospitality suppliers associations. VRLTA creates value for members by promoting the legislative interests of the industry, networking, educational opportunities, and protecting free enterprise. Inquiries about membership and VRLTA services should be directed to VRLTA at (804) 288-3065 or [VRLTA.org](http://VRLTA.org).*

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