



*Advocating the views of convenience stores, supermarkets,  
independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors.*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: Elizabeth Peroni, PFMA  
800-543-8207 x 5923

## **PENNSYLVANIA FOOD MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCES 2018 THOMAS R. AND LAURA RIDGE SCHOLARS**

Camp Hill, Pennsylvania — The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association (PFMA), a statewide trade association advocating for the retail food industry, is pleased to announce the 2018 Thomas R. and Laura Ridge Scholarship recipients. An independent judging panel selected the 24 scholars based on their academic record, school and community involvement, an essay and recommendations from school and work.

The 2018 Ridge Scholars are:

**Samantha Capriotti**, Exton, PA, *Member: Acme*  
**Kylie Goodling**, Wrightsville, PA, *Member: Rutter's*  
**Matthew Hartley**, New Kensington, PA, *Member: Penn Hills Shop 'n Save*  
**John Hansberry**, Vancouver, WA, *Member: FMS Solutions*  
**Stephanie Kennedy**, Thurmont, MD, *Member: Weis Markets*  
**Madysen Rush**, Erie, PA, *Member: Meadowbrook Dairy*  
**Catherine Torres**, Hazelton, PA, *Member: Boyer's Food Markets*  
**Rachel Weaver**, Windber, PA, *Member: Sheetz*

Five companies donated scholarship funds, so that Ridge Scholarships are awarded to their employees or children of employees.

### **Sponsored by Giant Food Stores**

**Aiden Doyle**, Coopersburg, PA  
**Mackenzie Owens**, Lansdale, PA  
**Lauren Runkle**, Royersford, PA  
**Vivian Smith**, Nazareth, PA  
**Eric Tran**, Norwood, PA

### **Sponsored by Karns Foods, Ltd.**

**Nathan Sheriff**, Landisburg, PA

### **Sponsored by the Northwestern Pennsylvania Food Council**

**Emma Evans**, Erie, PA  
**Andrew Gibson**, Fairview, PA  
**Elana McGraw**, Waterford, PA

### **Sponsored by Sheetz, Inc.**

**Kiersten Young**, Altoona, PA  
**Audrey Simpson**, Duncansville, PA

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## 2-2-2 PFMA Announces 2018 Ridge Scholars

**Sponsored by Wawa, Inc.**

**Kiersten Barr**, Havertown, PA

**Courtney Cassar**, Mantua, PA

**Maria Daly**, Malvern, PA

**Rosario LaSpina**, Gilbertsville, PA

**Lauren Reichart**, Gainesville, FL

“Congratulations to all the Ridge scholarship winners,” said Alex Baloga, PFMA president & CEO. “We are pleased to award these scholarships to these talented students, who have excelled in academics, extracurricular activities and overall character. We wish them the best as they continue their education in the fall.”

“Thank you to all the member companies who have donated to the Ridge Fund Endowment,” he said. “Their support allows PFMA to continue the scholarship program.”

The Ridge Scholarship honors former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge’s father, who was a member of the food industry for 25 years, and his mother Laura, who was a great advocate of education for Tom Ridge, his brother David and sister Vikki. PFMA, the Northwestern Pennsylvania Food Council and the Pittsburgh Association of Manufacturers Representatives hosted dinners through the years to raise money for the fund, which is now an endowment. Since 1996, 511 students have received the Ridge Scholarships, totaling more than \$1.1 million, to continue their education.

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The Pennsylvania Food Merchants Association advocates the views of more than 700 convenience stores, supermarkets, independent grocers, wholesalers and consumer product vendors. PFMA members operate more than 3,200 stores and employ more than 150,000 Pennsylvanians. For more information on PFMA, visit [www.pfma.org](http://www.pfma.org).