



Convenience
Distribution
ASSOCIATION

PRESS RELEASE

Convenience Distribution Association Announces 2026 Ray Foley Memorial Scholarship Winners

JUNE 4, 2026 - RESTON, VA - The Convenience Distribution Association (CDA) is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2026 CDA Distributors Education Foundation (DEF) Ray Foley Memorial Scholarships. The scholarship was established in June 1983 to honor the late National Candy Wholesalers Association executive vice president, Ray Foley. Applicants must be employed on an ongoing basis by a CDA distributor member company or be an immediate family member (spouse or child) of an employee of a CDA distributor member company in good standing.

After a rigorous and anonymous selection process, the judging panel has chosen four exceptional students who have demonstrated outstanding academic achievements, leadership skills, and community involvement. The scholarship winners are Rachel Bramlett, Elle Ehlert, Samrie Robinson and Abbey Williams. Each recipient will receive \$5,000 in financial aid to pursue their academic goals.



Rachel Bramlett is the daughter of Brenda Pope, key account sales manager at Grocery Supply Company in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Bramlett is a graduate student at the University of North Texas, pursuing a Master of Science in clinical mental health counseling with a focus on expressive arts and trauma-informed care for adolescents. She also is a full-time fifth-grade theatre teacher, where she prioritizes creating safe spaces for students to explore their creativity and express themselves. Bramlett plans to carry these priorities into her future career in mental health counseling, where she intends to provide high-quality care to teens and their families.



Elle Ehlert is the daughter of Kris Ehlert, sales representative at Grocery Supply Company in Brenham, Texas.

Ehlert is a high school graduate from Austin, Texas, where she maintained a strong academic record while balancing extensive involvement in athletics, healthcare and community service. A three-sport athlete in varsity soccer, club soccer and varsity golf, she completed a competitive Sports Medicine Practicum supporting athletic trainers with injury care and sideline support. She also attended a nursing immersion program, gaining firsthand exposure to patient care. Through these experiences, Ehlert developed a strong commitment to healthcare and will study nursing at Texas Christian University this fall.



Samrie Robinson is an assistant transportation manager at McLane Company, Inc. – Southwest in Temple, Texas.

Robinson is pursuing a bachelor's degree in business administration at National University. As a working parent of five children, she balances full-time employment and supporting her family with continuing her education. She is actively involved in her children's schools and extracurricular activities. Through her career and academic pursuits, Robinson has developed strong leadership, time management and organizational skills. She is committed to continuing her professional and personal while setting an example of perseverance and lifelong learning for her family.



Abbey Williams is the daughter of Barrett Williams, chief information officer at Grocery Supply Company in Sulphur Springs, Texas.

Williams graduated high school with strong academic achievements while being a member of the varsity cross country and track and field teams and the school's marching band. She also served as secretary of the National Honor Society and participated in Key Club, Student Council and academic writing competitions. In addition, Williams dedicated significant time to community service and hopes to pursue a career that allows her to make a positive impact on her community. Williams will attend Texas A&M University this fall, majoring in business.

CDA believes investing in education is one of the most important things that we can do to empower future leaders and make a positive impact in our community. We are honored to support these bright and talented students on their journeys toward success. Congratulations to all our scholarship winners, and we wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors.

Those who qualify for the CDA DEF Ray Foley Memorial Scholarship are encouraged to apply in 2027. To learn more about this scholarship program and the impact Ray Foley had on the industry, visit www.cdaweb.net/RayFoley.

About CDA:

The Convenience Distribution Association (CDA) is the trade organization working on behalf of convenience product distributors in the United States. Its distributor members represent more than \$110 billion in U.S. convenience product sales, serving a wide variety of small retail formats. Associate members include leading convenience product manufacturers, brokers, retailers, suppliers, and others allied to the industry. For more information, visit www.cdaweb.net.

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