



Washington, December 3, 2012 – Christmas came early for 24 college students when they learned they were recipients of a \$5,000 scholarship through the NRF Foundation’s [Ray M. Greenly Scholarship fund](#). Each student, nominated by educators at their schools based on their high scholastic achievements and passion for retail, will receive a \$5,000 scholarship to cover educational costs and a stipend to attend [Retail’s BIG Show](#) in January. As a part of its commitment to foster the next generation of retail leaders, the NRF Foundation is on track to award more than \$350,000 in scholarships this school year through its [University Partner Program](#).

“I’m incredibly passionate about the importance of recruiting and retaining the best people and these scholarships demonstrate the National Retail Federation’s commitment to the future of retail talent and leadership,” said Kip Tindell, Chairman and CEO of The Container Store and Chairman of the NRF Foundation Board of Directors. “I can’t imagine another industry that offers the growth and innovation opportunities that retail does and I’m certain that these students have bright and fulfilling careers ahead of them. We look forward to seeing them thrive and make a difference in the lives of the millions connected to our industry.”

## Kelsey Pepmeier - Indiana University

"Retail is like a virus that gets in your blood. I've been infected by the retail bug," she wrote in her scholarship essay. Chasing her retail dreams has led Kelsey to intern for Kohl's Department Stores and travel across the world from seminars in New York to participate in negotiations with vendors, to Las Vegas to network with professionals in wholesale and buying retail, to Chicago where she planned and executed a field seminar for 50 students, and even to Italy to hone her flexibility and receptiveness to new and challenging situations. She wrote in her scholarship essay, "There is an Italian expression that reminds me of my preparation for a career in retail, "buona fine a buon principio," which translates to, "a good beginning makes for a good ending."



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Major: Apparel Merchandising

Hometown: Vincennes, Indiana

Expected to Graduate: May 2013

The first person I told I won the Ray M. Greenly Scholarship was...

my host sister in Italy- I needed to use her phone to call my mom and dad who were still in the US.

Most people don't know I can...

do "the worm" with my eyebrows.

My favorite class has been...

the Retail Industry Field Seminar in New York last summer with two of my favorite professors.

If I could be a kid again, I would...

use "eenie meenie miney mo" to make decisions.

My motto/mantra is...

"Remember that life's a great balancing act. And will you succeed? Yes! You will, indeed! (98 and 3/4 percent guaranteed) Kid, you'll move mountains." - Dr. Seuss