WEEKLY BULLETIN

**January 22-26, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**  Micro-credentials are gaining popularity, but not at colleges. Instruction provided [by third-party providers is on the rise.](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/teaching-learning/2024/01/23/microcredentials-rise-not-colleges) |
| * Program Updates * Student Recruitment & Outreach Events |
| * Optional Professional Development |
| * Resources |
| * In the News * Scholarships & Opportunities |

# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters)**.** Monthly newsletters for students by grade level. Pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! *Available in English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.*
* [**New Video: 5 Things to Know About the Better FAFSA**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sr_hhHpOelg). The FAFSA is all new for 2024-25 and is now available 24/7! This one-minute video summarizes the top five things completers should know as they begin to fill out the form. Feel free to share this awareness resource with your students and communities on social media and in your newsletters.

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* [**NACAC Spring 2024 National College Fair**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**.** 2/18-Virtual, 3/24-Virtual, 4/21-Virtual.
* **Registration Open!** [**Students of Color Career Conference**](https://www.everettcc.edu/administration/equity-social-justice/diversity-and-equity-center/soccc)**.** This one-of-a-kind conference brings MS &HS students from across Western WA to network with professionals of color to discuss college and career readiness. Mar. 21 at Everett CC.
* [**PNACAC Spring College Fair**](https://www.pnacac.org/spring-college-fairs). 4/19-Spokane, 4/22-Seattle, 4/30-Portland.
* [**uAspire** **Virtual Financial Aid Help Events**](https://www.uaspire.org/FinAidEvents). Free virtual events to walk students and families. Topics include CCS profile, FAFSA Walkthrough, Next Steps Post-FAFSA, Financial Aid Offer Review, and Summer Financial Aid Steps.
* [**12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.42fu3w63mb46) Most events are virtual. Spanish events are available.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **Virtual:** [**National GEAR UP Academy**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024ngua). By NCCEP. Feb 12- 15.
* **Webinar:** [**Better FAFSA: One Month Out, What We Know Now**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1812919&group=). By NCAN. Free and open to all. Feb 14, 10 AM.
* **Registration Open!** [**Spring Learning Lab**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/learning-labs). NCCEP will host two Labs for GEAR UP professionals. Virtual and asynchronous online courses.*Learn more in a brief* [*webinar on Jan. 25*](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024/1/25/learning-labs)! Apply by Mar. 15.
  + College Success Learning Lab. Supporting college students? If so, join for ready-to-use resources and strategies.
  + Coordinator Learning Lab. New to GEAR UP? This Learning Lab is for you.
* **Registration Open!** [**2024 National GEAR UP Academy**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/academy) **(Virtual)** Join a national group of peers to explore ideas, re-energize your GU programming, and walk away with tools you can use. Feb. 12-15
* [**2024 WSCA Conference**.](https://wscaconference.org/) Mar. 6-8, SeaTac.
* [**PNACAC Conference: Where It All Began**](https://www.pnacac.org/annual-conference)**.** May 22 - 24, Salem, OR.
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 21-24, Washington, DC.

# RESOURCES

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Supporting Transgender and Nonbinary Students: College Admissions & Financial Aid.**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/supporting-transgender-and-nonbinary-students-college-admissions-financial-aid-resource-guide) Designed to assist college access professionals who work with high school students.
* [**Dream School: A Journey to Higher Ed.**](https://www.pbs.org/video/dream-school-a-journey-to-higher-ed-uw8zuz/)  This video special follows six ambitious high school students as they work to find their best college matches.
* [**Notable Women In STEM**](https://washingtonstem.org/notable-women-in-stem). This project showcases the wide variety of STEM careers and pathways in Washington. The women featured in these profiles represent a diverse range of talent, creativity, and possibility in STEM. For more information on careers, credentials, and opportunities in Washington, visit  [Labor Market Data Dashboard.](https://www.washingtonstem.org/focus_area/stembythenumbers/#Labor_Market_Data_Dashboard)
* [**I Want That Job!**](https://www.luminafoundation.org/i-want-that-job/) The series from WorkingNation focuses on promising career paths for early-career workers of all education levels.
* [**The Guaranteed Admissions Program**](https://councilofpresidents.org/_admissions/guaranteed-admissions-program-gap/). GAP supports a college-going culture and guaranteed admission efforts at CWU, EWU, TESC, WSU, and WWU. Participating institutions require two criteria for a student to be eligible for guaranteed admissions: (1) A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and (2) Completion of the CADRs or minimum credits needed for 4-year college admission.
* [**Family Resources**](https://www.commonapp.org/family)**.** Easy-to-use resources from Reach Higher and the Common App. Available in English and Spanish to guide you through the application process.
* [**Get Schooled Essay Review**](https://getschooled.com/college-review). Submit your personal statement, supplemental college application essays, and scholarship essays for feedback. They will provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.

**IN THE NEWS**

* [Allowing Food Benefits Eligibility As Proxy For Free College Tuition](https://wsac.wa.gov/media-2024-01-16-WA-Grant-Eligibility-Via-Food-Benefits)
* [Fresh Battle Lines In The Testing Wars](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/traditional-age/2024/01/17/reigniting-standardized-testing-debate)
* [Serving Uniquely Abled Students In Workforce Ed](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/01/serving-uniquely-abled-students-in-workforce-ed)
* [FAFSA Changes Mean More Pell Grants For Students With Kids, Here’s Why](https://www.forbes.com/sites/edwardconroy/2024/01/02/fafsa-changes-mean-more-pell-grants-for-students-with-kids-heres-why)
* [The End Of Affirmative Action Is Slamming Doors For Students Like Me](https://hechingerreport.org/student-voice-the-end-of-affirmative-action-is-slamming-doors-for-students-like-me)
* [In Defense Of Remedial Math](https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/views/2024/01/17/defense-remedial-math-opinion)
* [How The Anti-CRT Push Has Unraveled Local Support For Schools](https://hechingerreport.org/anti-crt-push-has-weakened-support-for-schools-led-to-districts-circling-the-wagons)
* [Kittitas Co. Funding Will Help CWU Reopen Mental Health Clinic](https://columbiabasinherald.com/news/2024/jan/16/kittitas-co-funding-will-help-cwu-reopen-mental-health-clinic/)
* [Funding At Risk For Program That Keeps Everett Ninth Graders On Track](https://www.heraldnet.com/news/funding-at-risk-for-program-that-keeps-everett-ninth-graders-on-track/)
* [Public Schools Are Safer. That Doesn't Mean The Kids Are All Right.](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2024/01/17/school-safety-may-be-improving-but-the-next-frontier-is-digital/72246557007/)
* [After Bumpy Start FAFSA Open 24/7, More Students Eligible For Pell Grants](https://www.forbes.com/sites/edwardconroy/2024/01/11/after-a-bumpy-soft-launch-fafsa--open-247-who-should-be-applying/)
* [Data On Degree Attainment, Jobs And Earnings](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/01/data-on-degree-attainment-jobs-and-earnings)
* [Datapoints: ED Data On Fall 2022 Enrollments](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/01/datapoints-ed-data-on-fall-2022-enrollments/)
* [After the Affirmative Action Ban, They Rewrote College Essays With A Key Theme: Race](https://www.nytimes.com/2024/01/20/us/affirmative-action-ban-college-essays.html)
* [Our College Students Are Struggling Emotionally. We Need To Understand How To Help Them](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-our-college-students-are-struggling-emotionally-we-need-to-understand-how-to-help-them)
* [Lummi Educators, Students Elevate Native Culture In Ferndale Schools](https://www.cascadiadaily.com/news/2024/jan/22/lummi-educators-students-elevate-native-culture-in-ferndale-schools/)
* [After Pandemic’s Peak, More Kids Missed School; Bill Aims To Solve That](https://www.heraldnet.com/news/after-pandemics-peak-more-kids-missed-school-bill-aims-to-solve-that/)
* [New FAFSA Student Aid Form Giving You Headaches? CBC, WSU Tri-Cities Can Help](https://www.tri-cityherald.com/news/local/education/article283982918.html)
* [Leading The Way In Workforce Education](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/01/leading-the-way-in-workforce-education)

**SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES**

*Find more opportunities at:* <https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/scholarships>.

* **[Scholarship Junkies’ Free Scholarship Bank](https://www.scholarshipjunkies.org/scholarship-search)**. Scholarship Junkies has launched their brand-new Scholarship Bank! This organization is a reputable and safe source to search for scholarships.
* [**WSECU Scholarships**](https://wsecu.org/scholarships)**.** For members of all ages. $2,000 is awarded for two-year colleges and vocational schools. $3,000 is awarded for four-year undergraduate programs and graduate programs. Due Feb. 12.
* [**Common App Student Advisory Committee**](https://bit.ly/48leLnT)**.** For HS juniors and seniors and those in their first year of college. Due Mar. 1.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [Bezos Scholars Program](https://www.bezosscholars.org/apply) | For HS juniors. Successful applicants have a strong drive and commitment to their education and demonstrate maturity, curiosity, resilience, and leadership. | 1/24 |
| [The Hamilton Award](https://www.hamiltonscholars.org/apply/) | For HS juniors for their academic, personal, and service achievements. This three-year, no-student-cost program helps students get into college, transition to college, succeed while in college, and transition to the post-college world. | 1/26 |
| [Truman D. Picard Scholarship for Native Students](http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/scholarships.html) | Dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources. | 1/26 |
| [The UW DO-IT Scholars Program](http://www.washington.edu/doit/Programs/scholar.html) | For WA State HS students with disabilities planning to continue their education after they graduate. Scholars prepare for their transition to college—which includes exploring careers, independence, self-advocacy, and leadership. Is open to high school sophomores or juniors. | 1/30 |
| [Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship](https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NROTC/Apply/) | Full tuition, book stipend, educational fees, and other financial benefits at many of the country's leading colleges and universities. Upon graduation, midshipmen are commissioned as officers in the unrestricted line Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve. | 1/31 |
| [Naomi Winston Scholarship in Art](https://www.nsalwashington.org/the-winston-scholarships-in-voice-and-art/naomi-winston-scholarship-in-art/) | For visual artists, aged 16 to 22. Applicants must demonstrate exceptional talent and promise of future success. | 2/1 |
| [EngineerGirl Essay Contest](http://www.engineergirl.org/10209.aspx) | This essay contest is for K12 students – in grades 3-12. Must write an original essay on a given topic related to engineering. | 2/1 |
| [John F. & Anna Lee Stacey Scholarship Fund for Art Education](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/education/staceyfund/) | ($500-$5,000) - For students ages 18 -35, pursuing a profession in visual arts & be skilled & devoted to the classical or conservative tradition. | 2/1 |
| [AXA Achievement Scholarship](https://www.college-financial-aid-advice.com/axa-scholarship.html#com) | ($2,500-$25,000) - For HS seniors who plan to enroll in an accredited two- or four-year college or university for the upcoming school year. Must submit a detailed essay that describes one outstanding, non-academic achievement they have accomplished. | 2/1 |
| [HACER® National Scholarship](https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/community/hacer/eligibility-and-requirements.html) | For HS seniors who plan to go to a 2- or 4-year college or university. Must have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage, have a min. 3.0 GPA, and be a legal resident. | 2/5 |
| [CORE's Que Llueva Café Scholarship](https://ca-core.org/scholarship/) | For college-bound undocumented students, can earn their college education and allow for all of their hard work and sacrifice to persevere. $500-1,000. | 2/10 |
| [John Lennon Scholarship - BMI Foundation](https://bmifoundation.org/by-application/johnlennonaward) | ($20,000) – For student songwriters and composers of contemporary musical genres including alternative, pop, rock, indie, electronica, R&B, and experimental. | 2/15 |
| [Princeton Summer Journalism Program](https://psjp.princeton.edu/about-program/apply) | Free residential journalism and college preparatory program for high-achieving current juniors from low-income backgrounds interested in journalism. All program expenses, including meals, housing, and transportation covered. | 2/15 |
| [Association of Computer Professionals in Education (ACPE) Scholarship](https://acpenw.org/scholarships/) | ($2,000) – For HS seniors who plan to study technology. Successful applicants have studied and used technology innovatively throughout high school and can demonstrate their work through a project. The project itself can take many forms, including but not limited to a website, app, video, podcast, webcast, etc., produced sometime during their high school years. | 2/16 |
| [The Christophers’ Poster Contest](https://www.christophers.org/poster-contest) | Open to 9-12 graders. Must create an original poster that interprets the theme "You Can Make a Difference” & illustrates the idea that one person can change the world for the better. $100-$1,000. | 2/16 |
| [Gordon A. Rich Memorial Scholarship](http://www.gordonrich.org/html/index.html) | ($12,500) – For HS students with demonstrated financial need whose parents or guardians have, or had, a career in the financial services industry. | 2/20 |
| [Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarship](http://www.vrg.org/student/scholar.htm) | Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, The Vegetarian Resource Group each year will award $20,000 in college scholarship money to graduating U.S. high school students who have promoted vegetarianism in their schools and/or communities. | 2/20 |
| [Indian Health Services Scholarships](https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/apply/) | Scholarships for qualified American Indian and Alaska Native students who plan to enter or are pursuing degrees in the health profession. | 2/28 |
| [Washington Opportunity Scholarship- Baccalaureate](https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/students/applicants/baccalaureate/) | For low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible high-demand majors in STEM or health care and encourages recipients to work in WA once they complete their degrees. | 2/29 |
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| The opinions expressed in these articles do not necessarily represent those of Washington State GEAR UP, the Washington Student Achievement Council, or the Department of Education. You should not assume endorsement by these entities. | | |