

## IN THIS ISSUE:

- GEAR UP Updates
- Optional Professional Development
- Resources
- News & Research
- Student Scholarships & Opportunities
- Calendar of Events for Students

### Did You Know?

Roughly **20%** of undergraduate students didn't apply for financial aid during the 2011 to 2012 academic year. The reasons may surprise you. [Learn more.](#)

## GEAR UP UPDATES

- **Action Required:** [GEAR UP Workshop: Year 6 Kickoff](#). To receive clock hours (up to 12 possible), YOU MUST [PRE-ENROLL](#) BEFORE THE EVENT. Session ID# 56782, Course# ABE-710.
- **ACT Update:** As of July, ACT will give waivers only to students who are eligible for free/reduced price lunch. Other GU students no longer qualify. If you need to revise your budget to fund test fees, please contact [Marcie](#).
- **GEAR UP West Registration & Lodging Accommodations:** [Conference Registration](#) is open. [Lodging](#): Doubletree room block closes Sept. 14. Davenport room block closes Sept. 16.

## OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- [2016 Fall Counselor Workshops](#). For HS counselors/college access staff. Held in 9 locations in Sept. Hear updates from 4-year public/private universities, OSPI, WSAC, and more.
- **Webinar:** [The Framing of Student Success through an Equity Lens](#) by OSPI GATE. Sept. 14, 10-11am.
- [Youth Mental Health First Aid Training Opportunity](#). Project AWARE offers no cost in-person trainings for parents, school staff, and community members in WA. The all-day training teaches adults how to identify and respond to signs of mental illness and substance abuse among youth. Interested? Contact [Deb Drandoff](#) at (360) 952-3396.
- [2016 Washington Financial Aid Association \(WFAA\) Conference](#). With all the coming changes in Financial Aid, you won't want to miss this opportunity. Oct. 12-14, Spokane.

## RESOURCES

- **For Students:** [Up Next Text Reminders](#). First Lady Michelle Obama is encouraging high school and college-age students sign up with [Up Next](#), a mobile system that helps young people navigate key activities to becoming a successful adult – e.g., applying and paying for college. Get simple text message reminders about registering for the SAT/ACT, filling out the FAFSA, etc.
- [Federal Student Aid Resources for the 2017 – 18 FAFSA](#). This list includes resources that are available in English and Spanish.
- [Getting It Right: Reference Guides for Registering Students with Non-English Name](#). If you aren't familiar with naming conventions from other cultures and have trouble entering students' names correctly, help is on the way. Check out this resource from REL Northwest.
- [Newcomer Tool Kit](#). This guide from ED is for educators and others who work with immigrant students and their families. It provides information on: 1) topics relevant to understanding, supporting, and engaging newcomer students and their families; 2) tools and strategies to use in the classroom and professional learning communities; and 3) resources for further information and assistance.

- **For Students:** [CollegeGo Mobile App](#). BigFuture's new free app guides your students through every step of the college process, from researching to applying to paying for college. Available on both Apple and Android devices. It provides students with an interactive experience that uses games, video, and search features to help them plan their college journeys.
- **Why Not Us?** This documentary, by College Board and Roadtrip Nation, follows four first-generation college students, who go on a journey across America to interview inspiring individuals who were also the first in their families to pursue higher education. View on the [Roadtrip Nation website](#) or through Netflix (subscription required).
- **For Students:** [Strive for College](#). UStrive is an online community helping HS students get through the college admissions process. Students are matched with a free, virtual personalized mentor and can access resources.

### IN THE NEWS

Please send any media coverage to Katherine at [katherinek@wsac.wa.gov](mailto:katherinek@wsac.wa.gov). We want to feature you here and in our newsroom: <http://gearup.wa.gov/news>.

- [One Way to Write a Great College Admissions Essay?](#) Tell your story out loud.
- [Bellevue College Will Now Offer Part-Time Coding Program](#). Includes web development, web applications and other coding skills.
- [High Schoolers with Disabilities Excel at UW Summer Program](#). At DO-IT, a summer study program for Washington high school students with disabilities, students who might not have otherwise continued their studies envision themselves in college and beyond.
- [Washington Colleges Receive Guided Pathways Grants](#). College Spark Washington and the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges have selected five colleges to receive Guided Pathways implementation grants, which will help at-risk college students increase completion rates.
- [Why High School Students Need More Than College Prep](#). Survey after survey shows that employers are demanding — even of college-bound students — some level of job skills and professionalism: punctuality, customer service, managing people and teamwork.
- [College Kids, With Kids](#). There are 4.8 million undergraduates raising children — one-fourth of all postsecondary students. More than half will leave without finishing after six years.
- [The Typical College Student Is Not Who You Think It Is](#). What percentage graduated from high school and enrolled within a year at a four-year institution where they live on campus?
- [WSU Answers Demand for Engineers, Computer Scientists](#). Washington State University will offer new STEM degrees to meet the high demand for engineers and computer scientists.

### SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Calling all HS Seniors:** [Better Make Room](#) & [Story2](#) are calling all high school students to take to Instagram to share why they're excited about college. **Participate and enter to win FREE college essay mentoring with EssayBuilder.**
- [Academic Acceleration Grant](#). Grants available to develop new capacity for dual credit courses. iGrant application #661. **Due Sept. 30.**
- [Hispanic Heritage Youth Awards](#). For HS seniors who identify as Hispanic/Latinx. Min. 3.0 GPA. Must be a US Citizen/Permanent Resident/ qualify under DACA. \$1,000 to \$3,000. Due 10/2.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DUE
<a href="#">WeRNative Student Contest</a>	Share how you show your Native pride this summer and be entered to win up to \$150! For youth ages 15-24.	8/20
<a href="#">Make me Laugh Scholarship</a>	Describe an incident in your life, funny or embarrassing (fact or fiction), and make us laugh! Ages 13+. 250 words. \$1,500.	8/31
<a href="#">College Greenlight 2016 Summer Challenge Scholarship</a>	4 Easy Steps to Apply for the College Greenlight Summer Challenge Scholarship. You can win \$500 for college! See also: <a href="#">How to Use Fit to Build Your College List</a> .	9/1
<a href="#">We the Future Contest</a>	Open to K-12 students, college students, law school students, graduate schools students, adults 25 years of age and older, and seniors 65 years of age and	9/17

	older. Each age group has different requirements, so applicants should visit website for details. Amount varies.	
<a href="#">Siemens: Competition in Math, Science, and Technology</a>	Maximum award: \$100,000 college scholarship. Eligibility: students must enrolled in HS (grades 9-12) during the 16-17 school year, individually or as a team.	9/20
<a href="#">QuestBridge National College Match</a>	Online platform that helps outstanding low-income HS seniors gain admission and full 4-year scholarships to some of the nation's most selective colleges.	9/27
<a href="#">Disney Friends for Change Grants</a>	Offers young change-makers \$500 to gather their friends and turn their creative ideas to help their communities into projects. Youth ages 5-18 located in all 50 states and DC are eligible.	9/30
<a href="#">Don't Text and Drive Scholarship</a>	Open to HS students in grades 9-12 and current college or graduate school students. Must complete a short form and share a 140-character statement explaining why they will not text and drive. \$1,000.	9/30
<a href="#">Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship</a>	Must submit 2 small essays, one related to travel, & the other on why they deserve a scholarship. Must be 16-25, w/ 2.5 GPA or greater. US citizenship required. \$500.	9/30
<a href="#">Scholarship Poetry Contest</a>	Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to \$500.	9/30
<a href="#">ShipDig.com Scholarship</a>	Open to HS seniors and college students enrolled in an accredited academic institution. Must submit an essay on the most interesting item they have received in the mail. \$1,000.	9/30
<a href="#">Shout It Out Scholarship</a>	Open to students 13 years of age or older who are legal residents of the 50 US or the DC and are currently enrolled (or will enroll no later than the fall of 2021) in an accredited post-secondary institution of higher education. Applicant will need to submit a short response to a given prompt. \$1,500.	9/30
<a href="#">U.S. Bank Scholarship Program</a>	Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win \$20,000.	9/30

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**SAVE THE DATES!** To view the Calendar of Events for WAGU and also partner events related to access, visit: <http://www.gearup.wa.gov/calendar>.

- [EWU Fall Information Night: Tacoma](#). Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with an admissions representative and a current student who will answer your questions about life on campus, the programs that interest you, and the admissions and financial aid process. Sept. 13.
- [WSU Vancouver: A to Z Paying for College Workshop](#). Learn about the different ways to pay for college. Free and open to all, no matter which college you choose. Sept. 13.
- [Saint Martin's Open House](#). You will be able to interact with our world-class professors, explore our academic and athletic facilities, visit our residence halls, and have all of your questions about the admissions and financial aid processes answered. Sept. 17.
- [WSU Future Cougar Day](#). See what it's like to be a Cougar in Pullman. Sept. 17.
- [EWU Fall Information Night: Bellevue](#). Sept. 21.
- [PNACAC Regional College Fair](#). Save the date! Attendance is free and open to students, parents, and educators. Oct. 21-22- Seattle, Oct. 25- Spokane, Oct. 23- Portland.

gearup.wa.gov

