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DID YOU KNOW?

May is National Foster Care Month. **Fewer than 3 percent** will earn a college degree by age 25. See resource section for financial aid options for foster alums.

Source: [Jim Casey Youth Opportunity Initiatives](#)

KUDOS! [Rogers High School](#) plans for all juniors to take AP English.

GEAR UP UPDATES

- **WAGU Schools: Need 12th Year Campaign Resources?** Submit your orders online at: <http://gearup.wa.gov/webform/program-resource-order-form>
- **Call for Proposals: [GEAR UP West 2016](#).** Submit a proposal for breakout sessions for the 10th Annual GEAR UP West Conference. Due by May 31.
- **Family Newsletters:** Download the **May** and the **Summer** family newsletter templates. They are full of college readiness and financial aid information for grades 7 through 12. Just add your school logo, events and contact information to customize for your school!

OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Webinar: [Understanding Scores from the New SAT](#).** Learn what is new or changed for SAT scores. Get tips for accessing and using the K12 integrated score reporting portal and tools for comparing old SAT to new SAT scores. May 12, 10 AM.
- **Webinar: [The SAT Suite of Assessments: Getting Ready for Fall 2016](#).** Get tips, best practices and reminders to help you and your students plan ahead for the 2016-17 school year. May 16, 1 PM.
- **Webinar: [Strategies to Increase Parent Engagement in Postsecondary Planning](#)** by SREB. May 18, 10:30 AM.
- **WSAC/OSPI Wednesday Webinar: [Dual Credit Programs](#).** Learn the differences between all dual credit programs, co-delivery of dual credit courses, coding dual credit courses on student transcripts, and grants to help fund dual credit program elements, including test fees and tuition. May 18, 10:30 AM.
- **[OSPI/WA School Counselor Association Technical Assistance Summer Institute](#).** Jun. 29, Olympia. **[Reach Higher WA Convening](#).** Jun. 30, Olympia.
- **Save the Date: [Fall 2016 Counselor Workshops](#).** Network with fellow counselors and get updates from four-year public and private universities, OSPI, and WSAC.

RESOURCES

- **[Washington State Financial Aid for Foster Youth](#).** Learn about the different programs available in our state.
- **[Toolkit for "I Am Asian American"](#)** May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Use this toolkit to challenge assumptions and stereotypes about Asian Americans.
- **[SAT Score Converter](#).** With the SAT Score Converter apps and online tool, you can compare scores on the new SAT, old SAT, and ACT. See also: [A video](#) that explains what students will find on their score reports.

RESEARCH

- [Overall College Persistence Rate Improves for Third Straight Year](#). The overall persistence and retention rates have now surpassed that of students who entered college in fall 2009, suggesting that some of the strain placed on students and colleges during the recession has been lessened.
- [2016 Building a Grad Nation Report](#). This report analyzes the progress our country is making toward the critical goal of a 90 percent on-time high school graduation rate by 2020 and the challenges we're finding along the way.

IN THE NEWS

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

- [Seattle Schools Have Biggest White-Black Achievement Gap In State](#). Among the 200 biggest school districts in the U.S., Seattle has the fifth-biggest gap in achievement between black and white students.
- [Justice Department: North Carolina's LGBT Law Amounts To 'State-Sponsored Discrimination'](#). Attorney General Loretta Lynch stands up for transgender North Carolinians and against the state's discriminatory HB2.
- [7 Things You Need To Know About Federal Work-Study Programs](#). Here are things to know before exploring the work-study route.
- [Funding Higher Education as a Common Purpose](#). If America is going to educate a global workforce, it must figure out a better way to fund a decentralized higher education system already under stress without wrecking it.
- [Ways High School Seniors Can Prepare For College This Summer](#). Check out these tips that can prepare you to hit the ground running in the fall.
- [What Can Stop Kids From Dropping Out](#). The scandal is that many colleges and universities are not using tools that have been proved to substantially raise graduation rates.
- [How Colleges Can Again Be Levelers of Society](#). Read about what Vassar does that other schools do not.
- [Promising Pilot Program Helps Students With Autism Succeed in College](#). The program is built around a combination that works: weekly workshops (which are open to all students with disabilities) and one-on-one peer mentorship seem to meet a lot of students' needs.
- [Why Commencement Ceremonies Actually Matter](#). Commencement gives us finality, an invitation to take stock.
- [College Debt Is Much Worse for Black Students](#). There are several potential reasons for the wide gap.
- [America's Talent Gap: Five Areas of Focus](#). Lumina's CEO shares five reasons to be optimistic about how America can address the talent gap.

SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

- **Funding:** [College Ready Math Initiative Grants](#). Fund an advisory program called Academic Youth Development (AYD) and/or Intensified Algebra I. iGrants form package 774.
- **Funding:** [Bridge to College Courses Grants](#). Applications are currently being accepted for the 2016-17 school year. iGrants form package 719.
- **Funding:** [College in High School grant for low-income students](#). Districts, tribal compact schools, and charter schools can apply. iGrants form package 732.
- **For Educators:** [Apply for AP Mentoring](#). A new teacher-to-teacher support program for teachers of all experience levels. Due Jun. 30.

HENAAC Scholarship	Must be Hispanic an/or participate in organizations/activities in Hispanic community. 3.0+ GPA. Must pursue STEM major. \$500-10,000. Open to 1079 students.	4/30/2016
Humane Education Network: A Voice for Animals HS Essay Contest	For HS students (ages 14-19). \$300-\$600. Rules & requirements may vary from year to year.	4/30/2016

American Indian Summer Institute in Earth System Science.	Free 2-week residential summer program for Native 8th-11th graders. Jul. 10-23. See link for details.	4/30/2016
American Indian Summer Institute	Students will work with professors, college students, and invited American Indian community members during their stay in the in the campus dormitories, learning about the university environment, improving study skills, and preparing for college. Free. Transpo scholarships available. Must be actively engaged in respective tribal community, plan to enroll in an institution of higher education, be a currently enrolled 8th - 11th grade student, and have an overall GPA of 2.8 or above (preferred, but not required).	4/30/2016
Accenture American Indian Scholarship	Must be an enrolled member of a U.S. federally recognized American Indian tribe or Alaska Native group, verified through submission of the AIGC Tribal Eligibility Certificate (TEC) form, demonstrate character and be seeking a degree and career in STEM or business.	5/1/2016
Wells Fargo Scholarship for Undergraduates	For American Indian and Alaska Native Students full-time and degree-seeking college freshmen, sophomores, juniors and seniors who hold a current GPA of 2.7 or higher with up to \$5,000 for one year of study in any chosen major at any accredited institution in the United States.	5/1/2016
International Teamster Women's Caucus Scholarship Program	For daughters/sons of active or retired Teamster members who have at least 12 months of consecutive membership in good standing. Must be HS seniors who plan to attend an accredited college, university, trade, or business school. Must submit their SAT/ACT scores & an essay on how unions can motivate youth & women to become involved in the union movement. \$500.	5/1/2016
The Paradigm Challenge	The Paradigm Challenge is an annual competition developed by Project Paradigm and the American Red Cross to inspire youth aged 7 to 18 to affect positive change in the world. The first annual challenge aims to generate new ideas to prevent injuries and fatalities from home fires - America's #1 disaster threat. They invite youth aged 7 to 18 (as of May 1, 2015) to accept The Challenge, build a team, become problem solvers, learn about home fires, and help save lives. Project Paradigm will award cash prizes of up to \$100,000 to the top 100 teams.	5/1/2016
A.T. & Anderson Memorial Scholarship	These scholarships are awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian AISES members pursuing degrees in the sciences, engineering, medicine, natural resources, math & technology.	5/2/2016
Actuarial Diversity Scholarship	For those intent on pursuing a career in the actuarial profession. Must have at least 1 birth parent who is a member of one of the following minority groups: Black/African American, Hispanic, Native North American, Pacific Islander. For HS seniors w/ a min. 3.0 GPA & a min. ACT math score of 28 or SAT math score of 600. \$1,000.	5/2/2016
AISES Intel Scholarship	The AISES Intel Scholarship will fund scholarship awards to American Indian/Alaska Native AISES members pursuing degrees in STEM fields.	5/2/2016
East Villagers Service Scholar Contest	For MS/HS students. Must complete five hours of community	5/2/2016

	<p>service and submit an essay or piece of art that captures and promotes the spirit of volunteerism. \$150-\$500. Citizenship not required.</p>	
<p>Wilson-Hooper Veterinary Medicine Assistance Program</p>	<p>For native students pursuing a degree in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) or Veterinary Technology (Associates of Applied Science Degree).</p>	<p>5/13/2016</p>
<p>Conestoga Bank "Future of Banking" Scholarship</p>	<p>For HS seniors & college freshmen. Must submit an essay of 500 words or less addressing an idea about what the future of banking includes. \$1,000.</p>	<p>5/15/2016</p>
<p>I'm First! Scholarship</p>	<p>For HS seniors. First-generation college student (neither parent has earned a four-year college degree). Must be attending a CSO partner college or university (CSO in WA= The Evergreen State College and Whitman College). \$1,000 per year up to 4 years.</p>	<p>5/22/2016</p>
<p>Western Union Family Scholarship Program</p>	<p>Understanding that education is a pathway toward a better economic future, the Western Union Foundation Family Scholarship</p>	<p>5/25/2016</p>

	<p>Program helps two people from the same family pursue educational opportunities. Must be 18 or older & members of the same family. Must be born outside of US & have been in US for less than 7 years. Learn more.</p>	
<p>Engineering for You Video Contest</p>	<p>Open to individuals or teams in 6 competition categories. To enter, applicants must create & submit a 1 to 2 minute video showing engineering contributions that serve human welfare & the needs of society occurring anywhere during the time period from 1964-2064. Open to MS, HS, & college students. \$25,000.</p>	<p>5/31/2016</p>
<p>UW Young Executives of Color Program</p>	<p>9-month college pipeline program/business academy hosted by the UW Foster School of Business. For HS 9-11th graders. Free, meals and supplies provided. Transpo is only cost to students. Network w/ professionals from Microsoft, Google, Amazon, and more.</p>	<p>5/31/2016</p>

American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship	Scholarships available to students attending non-tribal colleges. Online app available Jan.1-May 31.	5/31/2016
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FREE GEAR UP STUDENT, FAMILY, & EDUCATOR WORKSHOPS

- **GEAR UP EDI (UW)**, Roseann London, rlondon@u.washington.edu
- **CSF**, Michelle Alejano, MAlejano@wcan.org
- **WSECU**, Karen Childs (Northwestern WA) kchilds@wsecu.org, Suzanne Klenk (Southwestern WA) sklenk@wsecu.org, Josh Bergman (Eastern WA) jbergman@wsecu.org

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