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Did You Know?

September is Attendance Awareness Month.

During the 2014-15 school year, **1 out of 6** students in Washington was absent at least 18 days.

Source: [OSPI](#)

GEAR UP UPDATES

- **Update:** [Act Waiver](#). See link for language about GEAR UP students and ACT waiver eligibility.
- **Newly Updated!** [FAFSA Priority Filing Deadlines for WA colleges and universities](#). Download the excel document with FAFSA filing deadlines for Washington schools, financial aid office contact information, and whether the school requires a supplemental application in addition to the FAFSA.
- **Action Required: Washington State GEAR UP Champion Awards.** See [link](#) for a printable poster to help promote this opportunity. If you'd like a large printed poster, please contact [Kat](#) ASAP with the number of posters needed.
- **Review:** [Year 5 Fiscal Deadlines](#). Stay current on upcoming fiscal deadlines.
- **Action Required: GEAR UP West Registration & Lodging Accommodations:** [Conference Registration](#) is open. [Lodging:](#) Doubletree room block closes Sept. 14. Davenport room block closes Sept. 16.
- **Save the Date:** [2016 Fall Counselor Workshops/WCHSCR Tour](#). For HS counselors/college access staff. Held in 9 locations in Sept. Hear updates from 4-year public/private universities, OSPI, WSAC, and more.
- **Upcoming 12th Year Campaign Trainings:**
 - [College Goal Washington Site Lead Training Webinar](#). Sept. 9, 10 AM.
 - [College Application Campaign Site Lead Training Webinar](#). Sept. 9, 12:00 PM.
 - [2016 -2017 Senior Cycle Webinar](#). Sept. 13, 1:00 PM.
 - [FAFSA/WASFA Volunteer Training Webinar](#). Sept. 14, 1:00 PM.

OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Webinar:** [Planning for Changes Coming with 2017-18 FAFSA](#). The Department of Education will provide key information about the changes. Sept. 8, 10 AM.
- **Webinar:** [The Framing of Student Success through an Equity Lens](#) by OSPI GATE. Sept. 14, 10 AM.
- **Save the Date:** [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.
- **Save the Date:** [5th Annual Beyond HB 1079 Conference](#). Open to undocumented HS/college students, family members, educators, and community members/advocates. UW Seattle, Oct. 15.
- **Webinar:** [Hidden in Plain Sight: Homeless Students in America's Public Schools](#). Learn more about the current state of homeless students and how the new ESSA guidelines that will require districts – for the first time – to report high school grad rates for homeless students. Sept. 22, 11 AM.

RESOURCES

- **Featured WAGU Resource!** [Getting Ready for Campus Visits: A GEAR UP Handbook for Providing Campus Visits for Middle and High School Students](#). Includes best practices and resources to help plan meaningful on-campus experiences. Contains replicable, customizable tools.
- [Up Next: Free College Readiness Text Messages](#). First Lady Michelle Obama is encouraging students to use this free text-messaging tool. It sends high school juniors and seniors, college students, and graduates personalized text messages with reminders and information about the college application process, financial aid, and federal loan repayment options. Just text the word "COLLEGE" to 44044.
- [Culturally Responsive Teaching: A Guide to Evidence-Based Practices for Teaching All Students Equitably](#). This guide provides a wide range of practices—supported by research—that can help prepare educators become more culturally responsive in their approach to teaching.
- [FAFSA Memes](#). Use these pics to highlight and promote FAFSA completion.
- [Federal Student Aid Financial Aid Toolkit](#). The Financial Aid Toolkit from the U.S. Department of Education provides federal student aid information and outreach tools for counselors, college access professionals, nonprofit mentors, and others, and can be accessed [here](#). A demo of the Department of Education's financial counseling tool can also be found [here](#).

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>.

- **KUDOS! Hudson's Bay GEAR UP Student Kailie Busby!** [Opening Young Eyes](#). Second annual Girl Cops Are Awesome event gave insight into being a law officer.
- [Do College Students Pick Majors Based on Potential Earnings?](#) Seeing what workers actually make may nudge students toward higher-earning majors, researchers find.
- [College Teaches Anxious Students Not to See Failure as 'Catastrophic'](#). The number one student complaint is anxiety — the feeling of being overwhelmed, and panic attacks.
- [6 Myths About Suicide That Every Educator And Parent Should Know](#). Learn about some common misperceptions of suicide.
- [Stuck at Square One](#). College students increasingly caught in remedial education trap.
- [From Convict to College Student](#). California's public universities are starting to embrace a program that helps transition people from prison to campus.
- [How Texting Can Change the Way First-Generation Students Experience College](#). Research shows have conducted shows that this approach can significantly increase students' college enrollment and persistence, at an investment of only about 15 cents per student served.

SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

- [Math for the Win!](#) Baltimore Ravens offensive lineman and published mathematician John Urschel is teaming up with Texas Instruments to pump up excitement for the new school year. Kick off the season by sharing photos of how you use math to succeed in school, at home, anywhere and everywhere. Show us how you use math for the win by sharing a photo using #MathFTW #TIContest on Twitter or Instagram. Multiple chances to win! Contest ends Sept. 17.
- [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
We the Future Contest	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 older. Each age group has different requirements, so applicants should visit website for details. Amount varies.	9/17

Siemens: Competition in Math, Science, and Technology	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
QuestBridge National College Match	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
Disney Friends for Change Grants	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
Don't Text and Drive Scholarship	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
Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship	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
Scholarship Poetry Contest	Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to \$500.	9/30
Shout It Out Scholarship	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
U.S. Bank Scholarship Program	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 their world-class professors, explore the academic and athletic facilities, visit 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

