WEEKLY BULLETIN

**February 19-23, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**  WA Grant is available to all eligible Washington residents, including undocumented students for education and training beyond high school.  <https://wsac.wa.gov/wcg> |
| * 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.*
* **Webinars:** FSA is hosting a series of free webinars this week centered on the new form and process. Students, family members, and professionals aiding in FAFSA completion are encouraged to attend. The schedule is as follows:
* [Understand the New FAFSA Submission Summary](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd76-OOEaKINEq4EFnnbwom1UOEtXN1VBU0lEUkdURFFTOVVUV1JMWlZCRi4u) (Feb. 20)
* [Why Should I Complete the 2024-25 FAFSA Form?](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd76-OOEaKINEq4EFnnbwom1UOEtXN1VBU0lEUkdURFFTOVVUV1JMWlZCRi4u) (Feb. 20)
* [How to Complete the 2024-25 FAFSA as a Dependent Student](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd76-OOEaKINEq4EFnnbwom1UOEtXN1VBU0lEUkdURFFTOVVUV1JMWlZCRi4u) (Feb. 21)
* [A Parent's Guide to Federal Financial Aid](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd76-OOEaKINEq4EFnnbwom1UOEtXN1VBU0lEUkdURFFTOVVUV1JMWlZCRi4u) (Feb. 21)
* [Best Strategies for Understanding and Comparing Schools and Financial Aid Offers](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd76-OOEaKINEq4EFnnbwom1UOEtXN1VBU0lEUkdURFFTOVVUV1JMWlZCRi4u) (Feb. 22)
* [How to Complete the 2024-25 FAFSA Form as an Independent Student](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=FEVdvd6EKEmp_WrhC7rWd76-OOEaKINEq4EFnnbwom1UOEtXN1VBU0lEUkdURFFTOVVUV1JMWlZCRi4u) (Feb. 22)

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* [**uAspire** **Virtual Financial Aid Help Events**](https://www.uaspire.org/FinAidEvents). Free virtual events to walk students and families.
* [**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.
* [**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.
* [**NACAC Spring 2024 National College Fair**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**.** 3/24-Virtual, 4/21-Virtual.
* [**PNACAC Spring College Fair**](https://www.pnacac.org/spring-college-fairs). 4/19-Spokane, 4/22-Seattle, 4/30-Portland.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **Webinar:** [**Pathways to Careers with Purpose.**](https://harvard.zoom.us/webinar/register/4517050050812/WN_XE9zC8oTT62TvGwE4ii_vg#/registration)By Education Now. Feb. 21, Noon.
* **Webinar:** [**Way to Wellbeing - Creating a Culture of Wellbeing**](https://www.pdenroller.org/ospi/catalog/159873). Feb. 21, 3:30 PM.
* **Webinar:** [**Overcoming Chronic Absenteeism: Solutions for School Leaders**](https://theschoolleader-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IfTDPES5TB2idbXFTX9VzA#/registration). Feb. 27, 1 PM.
* **Webinar:** [**Better Together: Integrating Attendance and Behavior**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_PIX4oAXITfyHu9nfwwYJqA#/registration). Mar. 6. 11:30 AM.
* [**2024 WSCA Conference**.](https://wscaconference.org/) Mar. 6-8, SeaTac.
* **Webinar:**[**Financial Aid Offer Review.**](https://www.uaspire.org/news-events/financial-aid-offer-review-c4e14c3067b365bda5c1bfb1a0990757) By uAspire. March 12, 11 AM.
* **Virtual:** [**GEAR UP Discussion Lab: Family Engagement**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2023/3-14disclab-fameng). By NCCEP. Mar.14, 11 AM.
* **Virtual:** [**Spring Learning Lab**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/learning-labs)**s**. By NCCEP. For GU professionals.Apply by Mar. 15.
* **Webinar:** [**Introduction to Apprenticeships**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wpx7sGYESgqG7gpbNsa5Qw#/registration). By OSPI/WSAC. Mar. 20, 9:00-10:30
* [**NCAN Virtual Spring Institute**](https://www.ncan.org/news/665250/NCAN-Announces-2024-Virtual-Spring-Institute-Save-the-Date-April-15-19.htm)**.** April 15-19.
* [**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:** [**Activity Guide: Preparing Students for the Transition to College**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/activity-guide-preparing-students-transition-college)**.** Use to help prepare students and families for the first year after high school, including what to expect and navigating common challenges.
* [**CareerOneStop’s Local Training Finder Tool.**](https://www.careeronestop.org/Toolkit/Training/find-local-training.aspx) Looking for training programs, schools, or colleges in the U.S.? Search for one near you.
* [**Financial Aid Calculator**](https://portal.wsac.wa.gov/a/aid-calculator)**.** Students and families can use the calculator to estimate their potential WA Grant award, but the only way to know for sure whether you qualify is to apply for financial aid.
* [**Quick Start Guide for Districts to Improve Attendance**](https://weeac.wested.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/Quick-Start-Guide-for-Districts_FINAL-ADA-1.pdf). From Attendance Works and the Western Educational Equity Assistance Center (WEEAC). Learn about six steps local, tribal, and state educators can implement to improve attendance and engagement at school.
* [**Financial Aid Myths.**](https://drive.google.com/drive/u/1/folders/1oKTLyXjZK8OYKgaTCB6x7D8pQzA6jgR8) Schools and education advocates can download the Financial Aid Myths flyer in English, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese from WSAC's [Financial Aid Toolkit](https://wsac.wa.gov/fa-toolkit).

**IN THE NEWS**

* [Mentors Can Be Just As Effective As Professionals: Here’s How](https://www.evidencebasedmentoring.org/mentors-can-be-just-as-effective-as-professionals-heres-how/)
* [Spokane Schools Grateful For Levy Passage; But Regrouping After Bond Fails](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/feb/16/spokane-schools-grateful-for-levy-passage-but-regr/)
* [Southwest Washington Students Forge Futures, Build Skills At Regional Welding Competition](https://www.esd112.org/news/southwest-washington-students-forge-futures-build-skills-at-regional-welding-competition/)
* [OSPI Explains: What Is The High School And Beyond Plan?](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/news-center/news-releases-and-stories/ospi-explains-what-high-school-and-beyond-plan)[A Community Micro-Credentials Effort Connects Students To Local Employers](https://www.gettingsmart.com/2024/02/13/a-community-micro-credentials-effort-connects-students-to-local-employers/)
* [Wrong Ideas About Teacher Pay, Happiness May Keep Students From The Profession](https://www.the74million.org/article/wrong-ideas-about-teacher-pay-happiness-may-keep-students-from-the-profession/)
* [Anti-DEI Laws Take Aim At Students Of Color And LGBTQ+ Students](https://www.nea.org/nea-today/all-news-articles/anti-dei-laws-take-aim-students-color-and-lgbtq-students)
* [Who’s Improving Black History Education For Everyone? Three Stand-Outs](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-whos-improving-black-history-education-for-everyone-three-stand-outs/2024/02)
* [Turning Back The Tide: The Critical Role Of States In Reducing Chronic Absenteeism](https://www.attendanceworks.org/state-data-for-2021-22-school-year/" \t "_blank)
* [Rising Tide Of Chronic Absence Challenges Schools](https://www.attendanceworks.org/rising-tide-of-chronic-absence-challenges-schools/" \t "_blank)

**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.
* [**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.
* [**The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship**](https://wtb.wa.gov/wave/) application is open for 2024! The award recognizes high-performing career and technical education (CTE) students at both the HS and community and technical college level, due Mar.10.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [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 |
| [ASHG DNA Day Essay Contest](http://www.ashg.org/education/dnaday.shtml) | ($100-$1,000) -This contest is open to students in grades 9-12 worldwide and asks students to examine, question, and reflect on important concepts in genetics. | 3/1 |
| [American Chemical Society Scholars Award](http://www.acs.org/content/acs/en/funding-and-awards/scholarships/acsscholars.html) | ($5,000) - Renewable scholarships to underrepresented minority students who want to enter the fields of chemistry or chemistry-related fields. | 3/1 |
| [Sound Credit Union Scholarship](https://www.soundcu.com/about-us/our-community/scholarships/) | $1,000 individual scholarships. Must be a graduating HS senior who plans to attend a 2- or 4-year college, w/ a min. 3.0 GPS, & be a member of Sound Credit Union on or before January 31, 2021. | 3/1 |
| [WAEF Tree Fruit Industry Scholarships](https://waef.org/scholarships/) | Multiple sources of scholarships for students raised in families with direct ties to Washington's tree fruit industry. | 3/1 |
| [Tall Clubs International Student Scholarships](http://www.tall.org/tci-foundation.html) | Scholarships are for students under 21 years of age, about to attend their first year of higher education, and who meet the height requirements of TCI— 5' 10" (178 cm) for women, and 6' 2" (188 cm) for men. Annually, TCI Foundation awards multiple student scholarship(s) of up to $1000 each. | 3/1 |
| [Washington State PTA Scholarship](https://wastatepta.org/events-programs/scholarship-program/) | For graduating seniors from WA public HSs with an active PTA, who will be starting college (either two-year or four-year) in the fall. | 3/1 |
| [Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation-Undergraduate/Associate Scholarship](https://mcsf.scholarshipapps.org/) | Need-based scholarships to the children of Marines and Navy Corpsmen who attend college or career training. Before applying, verify your eligibility. CTE Version--Application available all year. Applications are processed monthly. | 3/1 |
| [Create a Greeting Card Scholarship](https://www.gallerycollection.com/greetingcardscontests.htm) | ($10,000) - Submit original photo, artwork, or computer graphics for the front of a greeting card. | 3/1 |
| [Microsoft DisAbility Scholarship](http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx) | ($20,000) – For HS seniors with disabilities who plan to attend a vocational or academic college and target a career in the technology industry. The scholarships are renewable – each winner who continues to meet the criteria is eligible to receive an annual award of $5,000 for up to four (4) consecutive years for a potential total $20,000 scholarship. | 3/13 |
| [Louie Foundation Scholarship](http://www.louiefamilyfoundation.org/scholarship-application) | $100,000 in scholarships available especially for students with strong academics & whose parents are in the military or veterans of the armed forces. | 3/15 |
| [Junior Duck Stamp Contest](http://www.fws.gov/juniorduck/) | ($200-$1,000) - For K-12 students. Submit an original piece of artwork depicting a North American waterfowl species. | 3/15 |
| [Horatio Alger Scholarship - State Scholarships](https://scholars.horatioalger.org/about-our-scholarship-programs/state-scholarships/) | ($10,000) - The program specifically assists HS students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. | 3/15 |
| [National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program](https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/ugsp) | For students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to careers in biomedical, behavioral, and social science health-related research. Must be accepted to an accredited 4-year institution. Up to $20,000 per year. Renewable for 4 years. | 3/29 |
| [National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program](https://nfb.org/scholarships) | ($3,000-$12,000) – For blind scholars. All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership. | 3/31 |
| [LULAC National Scholarship Fund](https://www.lnesc.org/scholarships/lulac/) | Designed to help youth in underserved communities make the dream of college enrollment a reality. | 3/31 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest - Summer Issue](https://www.justpoetry.org/scholarships.html) | Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to $500. | 3/31 |
| [AFA Teens Scholarship](https://alzfdn.org/young-leaders-of-afa/alzheimers-awareness-scholarship/) | This Alzheimer’s Awareness College Scholarship Essay Contest is an annual competition for college-bound HS seniors. The grand prize winner receives $5,000, with additional prizes awarded for runners-up. | 4/1 |
| [Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund](http://www.davisputter.org/apply/apply-for-scholarships/) | (Up to $15,000 per Year) - These need-based scholarships are awarded to students who can do academic work at the college or university level or are enrolled in a trade or technical program and who are active in the progressive movement. | 4/1 |
| [STEM Stars Actuarial Scholarship Program](https://www.actuarialfoundation.org/scholarships/) | ($20,000). The STEM Stars Actuarial Scholars Program was created to help increase diversity in the actuarial profession. | 4/1 |
| [American Foreign Service Association National HS Essay Contest](http://www.afsa.org/essay_contest.aspx) | For 9-12th graders. Must submit an essay related to Foreign Service. The winner receives $2,500 a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet the Secretary of State, and full tuition for a Semester at Sea educational voyage. | 4/1 |
| [The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program](https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1994-program) | The program provides full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, and room and board each year for up to 4 years to selected students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, food science, natural resource science, or a related academic discipline at one of 35 federally recognized tribal colleges and universities. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. | 4/10 |
| [KMR Group Foundation](http://kmrgrp.com/?page_id=2722) | ($1,000-$3,500) For HS seniors graduating in Southwest Washington. Applicant must be currently enrolled or will be enrolled in Clark College, Lower Columbia College, or Mt. Hood Community College. | 4/12 |
| [USDA/1890 National Scholars Program](https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars) | Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition, as well as room and board, for the term of the scholarship. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. | 4/15 |
| [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](http://www.barronprize.org/) | ($10,000) - Honoring outstanding young leaders (ages 8-18) currently working on an inspiring service project or have done so within the past 12 months. Student needs to be working as an individual to lead their service work. The Barron Prize does not accept applications from large groups of young people. | 4/15 |
| [Incight Scholarship](https://www.incight.org/scholarship) | ($500-$2,500) - Incight awards up to one hundred scholarships to students with disabilities, who have demonstrated outstanding merit in giving back to the community and overcoming obstacles to pursue higher education. These scholarships range in value from $500 to $2,500. Open to students who are residents of OR, WA, or CA. | 4/15 |
| [LEAP Rise Above (aka LEAP1%) Scholarship Fund](https://seamar.org/scholarship-leap1.html) | The Latine Educational Achievement Project Scholarship Fund provides financial support for students who demonstrate a history of advocacy, responsibility, accountability, and perseverance; are go-getters, and have shown or have the strong potential to be contributors to their community. | 4/15 |
| [SEA-MAR - Farm Worker Scholarship](https://www.seamar.org/scholarship-farmworker.html) | For students who work or have worked OR whose parent/legal guardian is or has worked as a farm worker. | 4/15 |
| [WWIN Star Scholar (Formerly - Washington Women in Need Education Grant)](https://wwin.org/star-scholars/) | Each WWIN Star Scholar receives up to $5,000 per academic year and up to $20,000 over her undergraduate college career at the approved Washington college or university of her choice. For females 18 and older. | 4/18 |
| [Chin: Shui Kuen & Allen Chin Scholarship](http://asianpacificfund.org/information-for-student-applicants#banatao) | For incoming freshman or current, full-time undergraduate at a four-year college or university. Student or parent currently/formerly employed at an Asian-owned or Asian cuisine restaurant. Any ethnic heritage. Community advocacy and social justice work on behalf of Asian American, immigrant, gay and lesbian, and/or other progressive causes | 4/26 |
| [Washington Association of County Officials](http://www.countyofficials.org/247/How-to-Apply) | ($3,000) - The fund awards up to three $3,000 scholarships to eligible children of county employees and county elected officials in the following offices: assessors, auditors, clerks, coroners, medical examiners, prosecutors, sheriffs, and treasurers. Recipients must be full-time students in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical certification program. | 4/30 |
| [All About Education Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/all-about-education-scholarship) | ($3,000) - In 250 words or less submit a response to the question: "How will a $3,000 scholarship for education make a difference in your life?" | 4/30 |
| [E-waste Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/ewaste-scholarship/) | ($1,000) - Complete the application form including a 140-character message about e-waste. The top 10 applications will be selected as finalists. The finalists will be asked to write a full-length 500- to 1,000-word essay about e-waste. | 4/30 |
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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. | | |