WEEKLY BULLETIN

**February 5-9, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**It's National School Counseling Week!We celebrate the commitment and hard work of our member school counselors and the role they play in their students’ lives. |
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# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* **FYI: To attend the National GEAR UP Academy**, please email Marcie for permission to use the existing budget to register. If you do not have funds, please email her to request additional funds.
* [**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.*
* **FYI:** [**Bridge to College**](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2024-01/bulletin_001-24.pdf). District registration is now open for the 2024-25 school year and can be found using links on the Bulletin or the OSPI Bridge to College webpage.
* **Survey:** **[Statewide HSBP Platform](https://s.alchemer.com/s3/HSBPSurvey)**. Help choose the best possible platform! This survey is open Feb. 5 – Mar. 8 to get feedback from students, families, educators, and community partners to inform the final selection of the successful platform vendor in May 2024. Take the 15–20-minute survey by Mar. 8. A Spanish version of the student survey will be out next week.

# 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. [**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.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **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
* **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.
* **Webinar**[**: Easing Transitions**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_df24F_6ETxaOIqVcviziiw#/registration). By OSPI. Feb. 14, 10 AM.
* **Virtual:** [**OSPI's Grad Team: News You Can Use**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81775131532). Feb. 14, 2:30 PM.
* [**2024 WSCA Conference**.](https://wscaconference.org/) Mar. 6-8, SeaTac.
* **Virtual:** [**Spring Learning Lab**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/learning-labs)**s**. By NCCEP. For GU professionals. Virtual and asynchronous online courses.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
* [**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:** [**Considering A Gap Year?**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/considering-gap-year) For current high school seniors, here is what you need to know about taking a gap year or deferring enrollment before making a decision.
* [**Application to Admission Podcast**.](https://podcasters.spotify.com/pod/show/understandingthechoices/episodes/Episode-40-NACAC-Rising-e2erp0p) College admission experts and featured guests help students and families to navigate the college admissions process.
* [**Plan with Your School Counselor**](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/high-school-success/high-school-resources/plan-with-your-school-counselor.html)**.** From ACT. Learn how your school counselor can help.
* [**NCAN Launches New Page to Track Challenges, Workarounds of 2024-25 FAFSA**.](https://www.ncan.org/page/fafsa-challenges) The page will be used by NCAN to share current updates on challenges, issues, and workarounds users are experiencing with the 2024-25 FAFSA. Information from FSA, NCAN, our members, and the college access and attainment field will be housed here. Check back often as the page will be updated regularly.
* [**Easing Transitions Care Package**](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAOSPI/2024/02/01/file_attachments/2769575/Care%20Package.pdf)**.** Does your team need some tips on Easing Transitions for students? OSPI has crafted activities that take 5-10 minutes, 20-30 minutes, and 90 minutes for you! Find toolkits, reflection questions, and more.

**IN THE NEWS**

* [Using Financial Aid Data To Help Students Meet Basic Needs](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2024/02/05/using-fafsa-data-help-students-meet-basic-needs)
* [Another ‘Devastating’ FAFSA Delay](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2024/01/31/colleges-wont-receive-student-fafsa-information-until)
* [NACAC And Other Associations Urge Extensions On May 1 Commitment Deadlines](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-and-other-associations-urge-extensions-on-may-1-commitment-deadlines/)
* [Colleges Should Extend May 1 Decision Deadline Amid FAFSA Delays, Higher Ed Groups Say](https://www.highereddive.com/news/colleges-should-extend-may-1-decision-deadline-amid-fafsa-delays-higher-ed/706221)
* [Post-Affirmative Action, Let’s Look Past Our Obsession With The Ivy Leagues And Other Elite Schools](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-post-affirmative-action-lets-look-past-our-obsession-with-the-ivy-leagues-and-other-elite-schools)
* [Fallout From A FAFSA Fiasco](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/traditional-age/2024/02/05/how-fafsa-delay-throwing-admission-timelines)
* [The Incalculable Benefits Of An Advisory Network](https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/career-advice/carpe-careers/2024/02/05/benefits-career-advisory-network)
* [Campus Engagement Tip: Communicate Strategically With Family Members](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/college-experience/2024/02/05/duquesne-university-creates-targeted-parent)
* [CT Is Acing The FAFSA, Could WA Use Some New Tricks](https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/connecticut-is-acing-the-fafsa-could-wa-learn-some-new-tricks/)

**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.
* [**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 high school and community-and-technical college level. Due Mar.10.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [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 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 |
| [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 high schools 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 high school 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 |
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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. |