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Did You Know?

Some schools won't consider students for merit scholarships until they have submitted a FAFSA or WASFA. Students should complete one even if they think they won't qualify for aid.

Source: [Federal Student Aid](#)

GEAR UP UPDATES

- **Field Trip Reminder:** All field trips require an agenda/itinerary. When you submit a field trip approval form from the website, you will be prompted to add the agenda. The agenda must include the date of the trip and a time detail of the activities. College campus field trips that do not meet the minimum requirements will be questioned. *An example is attached for your reference.*
- **Free Workshop: Preparing Students for the Jobs of Tomorrow** by UW's [GEAR UP EDI](#). Oct. 28, ESD 113. Please contact [Roseann London](#) to register. See *attachment*.
- **GEAR UP West Conference:** New! [View/Download the conference program](#).

OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Save the Date: [2016 Washington Financial Aid Association \(WFAA\) Conference](#).** Learn about the changes in financial aid. 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.
- **OSPI/WSAC Wednesday Webinars for School Counselors: [Financial Aid Updates](#).** Learn more about the changes to the 2017-2018 FAFSA and WASFA and the resources available through the 12th Year Campaign. Will also discuss the FAFSA Completion Portal. Oct 19, 10:30 AM.
- **Save the Date: [OSPI Fall Regional Workshops for School Counselors](#).** For high school counselors, dual credit program leaders and principals with focus on balancing information and activity-based learning. Olympia-Oct. 12, Spokane, Oct. 13, Renton-Oct. 17, & Yakima- Oct. 21.

RESOURCES

- **[Form Your Future](#).** FAFSA resources from NCAN. Get great digital content, including celebrities and social media influencers who we know our students already follow online. Download outreach toolkit for posters, sample announcements, and more.
- **[Can You Translate That?](#)** New app allows parents, teachers to bridge language divide.
- **[Career Conversation Starters](#).** Check out the new ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors Career Conversation starter documents.
- **[Parent Guide for English Learners—English And Spanish Versions](#).** Developed by Ed Northwest. It will help parents talk with their child's school, ask the right questions, and support their child on their journey as an English learner.
- **Free! [PDF Kits from College Greenlight](#).** Find Parent Toolkits and guides for students to get letters of recommendation, complete FAFSA, and more. In English and Spanish.

- **Swift Playgrounds.** Free coding education application (from Apple) aimed at middle-school students. It is part of a major push to have public schools begin teaching coding, which could address socio-economic differences by providing students with marketable job skills.
- **From The White House Better Make Room Initiative:** Access other free information and resources.
 - The [Financial Aid Toolkit](#) has free resources based on your topic, audience, and medium. Sign up for the distribution list to receive regular updates on new materials.
 - [Share the flyer on the FAFSA & College Scorecard.](#)
 - [Register for webinars](#) on the FAFSA changes and demos, tips on digital engagement, and the FSA ID

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>.

- **[The Hardest Part About Growing Up Poor Was Knowing I Couldn't Mess Up. Not Even Once.](#)** In the face of adversity, you have far fewer chances, a much smaller margin for error.
- **[Could A Growth Mindset Help Teens Cope With Stress?](#)** Mindset interventions could help teens become more resilient to the stress.
- **[How to Talk to a "Problem Student" Without Them Tuning You Out.](#)** The thesis is "Let's get you to succeed."
- **[Middle-Schoolers Tame Anxiety in "Release" Short Film.](#)** Between stacks of homework, bullies, and awkward texts, middle school is its own sort of battlefield. In this five-minute film, students work through their anxieties using mindfulness.
- **[Hacking the Pipeline: How Black Colleges Are Taking Tech's Diversity Issue into Their Own Hands.](#)** While the big tech companies release diversity reports, students and mentors at HBCUs are coding their own future.
- **[Dorn Celebrates Adoption of Financial Education Standards.](#)** Implementation of the standards will begin immediately.
- **[Formerly Homeless Evergreen HS Alum Reshapes Her Hopes to What's Possible.](#)** To the growing number of local homeless students —she urges them to keep trying, to work towards breaking the cycle of poverty.

SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

- **For schools: [College Ready Math Initiative: Intensified Algebra and Academic Youth Development.](#)** Intensified Algebra I and Academic Youth Development programs for middle and/or high school students from Agile Mind curriculum is available through OSPI's iGrant #774. **Due Oct. 12.**
- **For schools: [Dual Credit Capacity Expansion Grant.](#)** iGrants Form Package #661. Due date has been extended until Nov. 29.
- **[Doodle 4 Google.](#)** \$30,000 college scholarship contest! For students in grades K-12. Create a doodle that tells the world "What I see for the future." Due Dec. 2.
- **[The Science Ambassador Scholarship.](#)** A full tuition scholarship for a woman seeking an undergraduate degree in STEM field. Citizenship not required. Due Dec. 11.

TITLE	DESCRIPTION	DUE
Counselors- WSU Regents Scholarship	All eligible nominees will receive a 4-year Regents Program scholarship and have the opportunity to compete for a Distinguished Regents Scholar Award.	10/14
Lexus and Scholastic Launch Contest for Middle and HS Students - Land & Water Challenge	STEM contest for 6-12 grades. This challenge is an educational program and contest designed to inspire and empower students to learn about the environment and take action to improve it. Awardees will receive a total of \$500,000 in grants and scholarships.	10/17
LEAP1% Scholarship Fund	For Latino/a/x students. \$1,000-\$5,000. Must graduate this spring & enroll in college next fall.	10/21

Horatio Alger Scholarship	Provides six \$5,000 scholarships to students who have exhibited integrity and perseverance in overcoming personal adversity and who aspire to pursue higher education.	10/25
Coca-Cola Scholarships	50 four-year \$20,000 scholarships and 200 four-year \$10,000 scholarships. Students are recognized for their capacity to lead and serve, and their commitment to making a significant impact on their schools and communities.	10/31
Washington Women in Need Education Grant for Winter	For WA females age 18 or over who are admitted into or registered at an accredited education institution in Washington state. \$5,000.	10/31
Apply for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest.	Past finalists include Neah Bay HS. Help another Washington school make it all the way to the finals!	10/31
Disney Dreamers Academy Applications.	For young leaders (ages 13-19) with a winning combination of attributes that reflect strong character, positive attitude, and persistence to take advantage of opportunities.	10/31
Washington Women in Need Education Grant for Winter	For WA females age 18 or over who are admitted into or registered at an accredited education institution in Washington state. \$5,000.	10/31
Berrien Fragos Thorn Arts Scholarships for Migrant Farmworkers	Must demonstrate an interest in pursuing further development of their talents in the arts. Min. 16 years old. Need not be enrolled in school.	11/1
Ron Brown Scholar Program	Applicants must be African American HS seniors who exhibit exception leadership potential & excel academically. \$10,000.	11/1
Voice of Democracy Scholarship.	Provided by the VFW, students in grades 9-12 are eligible for up to \$30,000. Requires recording a three to five minute speech on "Why I'm Optimistic About Our Nation's Future."	11/1
NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing	Honors young women in HS for their computing-related achievements and interests. Awardees are selected for their computing and IT aptitude, leadership ability, academic history, and plans for postsecondary education. Applications are accepted from Sept. 15 – Oct. 31 each year.	11/7
Act Six Leadership and Scholarship Initiative	The NW's only full-tuition, full-need scholarship for emerging urban and community leaders who want to use their college education to make a difference on campus and in their communities at home.	11/8
Prudential Spirit of Community Awards	For young people who have demonstrated exemplary voluntary service to their communities. Max. award: \$1,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C. Eligibility: Students grades 5-12 who have conducted a volunteer service activity within the past year.	11/8
Champions for Change	For young Native Americans (ages 14 to 22) who demonstrate leadership and service within tribal and urban Indian communities, schools, and/or programs.	11/15
FFA Scholarships	Over 1,000 scholarships w/ just one application available to FFA members.	11/15
Verizon Innovative App Challenge	The Verizon Foundation is giving students a chance to win \$20,000 to the winning team. Online registration opens 8/1/16.	11/18
Elks Most Valuable Student Competition	Ranging from \$1,000- \$12,500 per year, Most Valuable Student scholarships are for students pursuing a 4-year degree, on a full-time basis (minimum of 12 semester hours), in a U.S. college or university.	11/30

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>.

- [Perry Tech Open House](#). Oct. 8.
- [PNACAC Regional College Fair](#). Oct. 21-22- Seattle, Oct. 25- Spokane, Oct. 23- Portland.
- [Fridays at Evergreen](#). Oct. 14.
- [Seattle Pacific University- SPU Friday Plus](#). Oct. 14.
- [DigiPen Undergraduate Programs Preview Day](#). Oct. 15.
- [EWU Open House](#). Oct. 15.
- [WSU-Vancouver Preview Day](#). Oct. 15.

- [UW Native American Student Day \(Seattle\)](#). Oct. 19.
- [WSU Tri-Cities: Fall Open House](#). Oct. 22.
- [WWU Western Fall Welcome](#). Oct. 22.
- [WSU Fall Preview](#). Oct. 24.
- [WSU-Vancouver LGBTQA-Friendly College Fair](#). Oct. 26.
- [Readiness for Islander Success in Education Conference](#). Oct. 27.
- [Seattle Pacific University- SPU Friday Plus](#). Oct. 28.
- [UW Esperanza En Educación \(EEE\) Conference](#). Oct. 28.
- [Seattle University: Fall Preview Day](#). Oct. 29.
- [UW Tacoma Fall Preview Day](#). Oct. 30.

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