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| Issue: April 14-18, 2025 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **[College & Armed Services Pennants](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/washington-state-gear-resources/college-going-culture/pennants)**. Download for your senior signing day activities.
* **Customizable** [**Quarterly Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/node/1433). These templates provide college and career readiness information for 7th—12th-grade students. They are now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Korean, Marshallese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian, and *Vietnamese.*
* **FYI:** [**GEAR UP Alumni Association Summer Melt Scholarship**](https://www.gearupalumni.org/scholarship-fund). Fifty GEAR UP alum nationwide will be awarded $250 scholarships to help cover educational fees. Proof of acceptance or enrollment in a higher education institution is required. Applications are due by Apr. 17.
* **FYI: Webinar:** [**College Bound 201: Best Practices**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bnrlty6VS7uiEPuIOUFxyw?utm_medium=email&utm_source=WSAC#/registration)**.**Hands-on strategies, checklists, and tools to apply your knowledge. Thursday, Apr. 24, 9–10:30 AM
* **Match Tip of the Week**: Parents, family members, or any non-parent volunteer who assists with GEAR UP activities can all be counted as a match at the volunteer rate of $40.28, provided they are helping all students or at least more than just their own child.

## FAFSA Updates and Resources

* [**12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.**](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events) Most events are virtual. Spanish events are available.

## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

* **[Spring 2025 PNACAC College Fairs](https://connect.pnacac.org/register/spring2025fairs).** Apr. 24 - Edmonds-Woodway HS, Apr. 26 - Seattle University, and Apr. 27- University of Portland.

## Optional Professional Development

* **Webinar:** [**ACT My Journey**.](https://web.act.org/my-journey-2025) By Collegewise and ACT. Learn how to help your middle school students prepare for the future. Apr. 16, 4:30 PM. Can’t make the live event? Register now, and they will email a recording.
* **Webinar:** [**Crafting and Implementing an Inclusive IEP. (For Parents & Guardians**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2MsavY-uQrCJ-Gu9QqTP4Q?fbclid=IwY2xjawJqShBleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHk41rm9j5MgKwsxHudkCI5lBWbAfEWoqFMD8Ay3JiLUdzsv3TJyVRLyTC2Tn_aem_lW9O4twi5ybCPWl8t3tHaA#/registration)). By OSPI. Washington has a new tool for IEP teams to help them develop and implement inclusive IEPs for students with extensive support needs. Interpretation will be provided in Spanish and Somali. Apr. 22, 4 PM.
* **Virtual:** [**NCAN Spring Institute Part 1**](https://bit.ly/3RzKoU2)**.** Designed for student-facing practitioners, advisors, & advocates who want to deepen their understanding of institutional commitment to belonging/equity. Spring Institute sessions are open to members & non-members alike, free of charge. Apr. 29, 11 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Helping Teens Manage Depression: Practical Skills That Work**](https://www.familyaware.org/webinar/helping-teens-manage-depression-practical-skills-that-work/)**.** Apr. 29, 4 PM.
* **Webinar:** [**CiHS Advising and Guidance.**](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAOSPI/2025/02/26/file_attachments/3175442/CiHS%20Webinar%20Series%202025%20v2.pdf) By the COP & SBCTC. Apr. 30, 11 AM.
* [**2025 Washington Mental Health Summit**](https://www.wamhsummit.org/). This series brings together participants from the mental and behavioral healthcare community to drive innovation and improve systems. May 13.
* [**PNACAC Annual Conference**.](https://www.pnacac.org/annual-conference) May 21 - 23, Portland.
* **GEAR UP Discussion Lab:** [**Including Families in Summer Programs.**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/discussion-labs) May 22, 11 AM.
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** Jul. 13–16, San Francisco. 5/8 – Don’t forget to submit your [Award nominations](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edpartnerships.org%2Fnccep-events%2F2024%2F5-9-awards-8dwff&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Cff5036f565d74174038408dd77b77e37%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638798352185377422%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LAlUs%2FKmVM752AmW2%2BP8%2B2DUq3Ddd3SiUPZ%2BLNfCdCQ%3D&reserved=0)!
* [**Integrated MTSS Conference**](https://www.pdenroller.org/catalog/event/181084). Jul. 30- Aug 1, Wenatchee.

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource**: [**Activity Guide: Preparing Students for the Transition to College**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/activity-guide-preparing-students-transition-college)**.** College access professionals can use this activity guide to help prepare students and families for the first year after high school, including what to expect and how to navigate everyday challenges.
* **Order Yours Today!** [**Where Are You Going Career Guides**](https://bit.ly/3zGVqOv). The Workforce Board’s popular (and free!) guides are packed with WA-specific occupation and labor market info and ready to distribute to WorkSource centers, middle and high schools, colleges and universities, community-based organizations, libraries, and more! The updated guide features hundreds of occupations, including projected growth rates, education requirements, and average pay in our state. Includes education and career-focused resources, including grants and scholarships information.
* [**Don't Get Debt Slapped Activity**](https://debtslapped.org/about/) from CENTS and the Washington Attorney General's Office. This site offers tools and the eight-lesson Don't Get Debt Slapped Online program.
* [**Celebrate College Signing Day at Your School and Enhance Your College-Going Culture**](https://www.collegesigningday.org). College Signing Day celebrates your students’ choices to continue their education after high school, no matter their path. This toolkit simplifies the event-planning process with guidelines and templates to save time.
* [**28 Ways to Quickly Check for Understanding**](https://www.edutopia.org/article/quick-ways-to-check-for-understanding)**.** From sketching comics to drafting tweets, these fun—and fast—ways to check for understanding are creative and flexible.

## In The News

* [Americans Without A Degree Still Believe In The Value Of College, A New Poll Says](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/09/nx-s1-5342479/survey-college-degree-associate-bachelors)
* [How Trump's Immigration Policies Could Worsen The Health Care Worker Shortage](https://www.npr.org/sections/shots-health-news/2025/04/09/g-s1-59072/trump-immigration-health-care-worker-shortage)
* [Second Chance Month: Boost Your Resume With An Occupational Certification](https://blog.careeronestop.org/second-chance-month-boost-your-resume-with-an-occupational-certification)
* [Most Students Believe Colleges Promote Free Speech](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/04/09/new-report-most-students-say-colleges-promote-free-speech)
* [Linking Credentials To Earnings](https://www.ccdaily.com/2025/04/linking-credentials-to-earnings)
* [4 Classroom Design Tactics To Motivate Students](https://www.edutopia.org/article/boost-motivation-classroom-design-4-tactics)
* [Trump's 90-Day Pause On Tariffs. And How Free Speech In Public Schools Has Changed](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/10/g-s1-59335/up-first-newsletter-tariff-pause-trump-chris-krebs-miles-taylor)
* [I’m Thriving In My Dual-Enrollment Program, But It Could Be A Whole Lot Better.](https://hechingerreport.org/student-voice-im-thriving-in-my-dual-enrollment-program-but-it-could-be-a-whole-lot-better)
* [More Colleges Are Creating Homeless Liaison Roles. Here’s Why.](https://www.highereddive.com/news/more-colleges-are-creating-homeless-liaison-roles-heres-why/744262)
* ['What Did I Say In Class Today?' Teachers Feel Watched Under Trump's Anti-DEI Push](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/10/nx-s1-5349474/trump-dei-education-teachers-fear)
* [The End Of “College For All”: There’s More Than One Thing To Do After High School.](https://www.vox.com/explain-it-to-me/408282/college-post-high-school-decision)
* [DOGE Abruptly Cut A Program For Teens With Disabilities. This Student Is 'Devastated'](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/14/nx-s1-5345870/trump-doge-students-disabilities)
* [Harvard Faculty, AAUP Challenge Trump Administration's $8.7 Billion Funding Threat](https://www.diverseeducation.com/faculty-staff/article/15742736/harvard-faculty-aaup-challenge-trump-administrations-87-billion-funding-threat)
* [Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s Statement On The U.S. Dept Of Education’s Attempt To Control Washington Schools](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/news-center/news-releases/state-superintendent-chris-reykdals-statement-us-department-educations-attempt-control-washington)
* [The Fallout When Teachers Use (Or Reject) Students' Preferred Names](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2025/04/11/fallout-teachers-using-students-preferred-names-pronouns/83016730007/)
* [A Day In The Life Of One Migrant Seeking To Stay In The U.S.](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/14/g-s1-60091/venezuelan-asylum-seeker-immigration-court)
* [Harvard Rejects Trump Administration's Demands For Deep Change](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/14/nx-s1-5364829/harvard-rejects-trump-demands-on-dei-and-admissions)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

*Find more opportunities at:* <https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/scholarships>.

* **Free and Safe:** [**Get Schooled Essay Review**](https://getschooled.com/college-review)**.** Submit your personal statement, supplemental college application essays, and scholarship essays for feedback. They will provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.

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| **Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [10 Words or Less Scholarship](https://www.studentscholarships.org/easy.php#sthash.2vdhoRcz.dpbs) | ($500) - In 10 words or less, say why you deserve the scholarship. | 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 who have done so within the past 12 months. Students need to work independently to lead their service projects. | 4/15 |
| [Incight Scholarship](https://www.incight.org/scholarship) | ($500-$2,500) - 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. It is only open to students who are Oregon, Washington, or California residents. | 4/15 |
| [LEAP Rise Above (aka LEAP1%) Scholarship Fund](https://seamar.org/scholarship-leap1.html) | The Latino/a 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 a strong potential to contribute to their community. | 4/15 |
| [Sea Mar Farmworker HS & College Scholarships](https://www.seamar.org/scholarship-farmworker.html) | This is for those who currently work or have worked in agriculture or whose parent or legal guardian is or has worked as a farm worker. They should demonstrate a commitment to their education, exhibit leadership skills, show concern for their community, and show financial need due to individual or family hardships. | 4/15 |
| [Washington Opportunity Scholarship-Career & Tech (CTS)](https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/students/applicants/) | CTS supports WA students on their path to high-demand careers in the trades, STEM fields, and healthcare. Scholars must enroll in an approved program, such as welding, manufacturing, or IT, to be eligible at one of Washington’s 34 community and technical colleges. Scholars are eligible to receive up to $1,500 each quarter for the duration of their associate degree, certificate, or apprenticeship program. These scholarship funds are flexible and can cover tuition, fees, and other expenses associated with attendance, such as housing, transportation, food, and more. Scholars who intend to earn their bachelor's degree after completing their program are not eligible for CTS and are instead encouraged to review the Baccalaureate Scholarship. | 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 their undergraduate career at an approved Washington college or university. For females 18 and older. | 4/17 |
| [Shawn Carter Foundation Scholarship](https://shawncartersf.com/scholarship) | Jay-Z wants to give you money for college! Students with a minimum GPA of 2.0 are eligible to apply. | 4/30 |
| [A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship](http://www.aises.org/students/scholarships) | ($1,000) - This scholarship is awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian AISES members pursuing science, engineering, medicine, natural resources, mathematics, and technology degrees. Students must submit three essays (prompts provided), each up to 1,000 words in length. | 4/30 |
| [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 baccalaureate, associate, or vocational/technical certification program students. | 4/30 |
| [The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https:%2F%2Fwww.dcyf.wa.gov%2Fsites%2Fdefault%2Ffiles%2Fpubs%2FAP_0006.pdf/2/01000195811beadb-ddd0deda-3392-4845-87db-dae937ecd853-000000/V_AUn5RXO2wuAsqr1bbCwTyxzJe2QAjU_HaSV9ezJ2w=395) | For foster youth/alums. Provides financial assistance to eligible youth, up to $5,000 per academic year. Students must apply for FAFSA and receive the Pell Grant. High school students taking dual-credit classes can receive up to $2,000 per academic year. They must register for at least six credits and one 100-level class or higher each quarter. To learn more about the program, eligibility, and the 2025–2026 school year application process, please visit the ETV webpage or email ETVWash@dcyf.wa.gov with any questions. To meet the priority deadline, you must apply by April. 30, 2025. All applications received after April 30 will be awarded on a funds-available basis. | 4/30 |
| [AISES Scholarships: Scholarships for Native Students in STEM Fields](https://www.aises.org/scholarships/intel-growing-legacy-scholarship-2022-2023) | Multiple Scholarships - See Site for Details. Award Amounts vary: Must be a current AISES member (membership is free for students). Must be in a STEM field and be a full-time student. Must be an enrolled citizen or a descendant of an enrolled citizen of a federal or state-recognized American Indian Tribe or Alaska Native Village; or Native Hawaiian or descendant from a Native Hawaiian; or Pacific Islander or descendant from Pacific Islander; or an Indigenous person of Canada. Enrollment documents and/or a copy of birth certificate(s) showing descendancy from an enrolled citizen, Indigenous group of Canada, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander are acceptable. Applicants may also provide a copy of their Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood or Certificate of Degree of Alaska Native Blood (CDIB) card. Please note that AISES may not always offer scholarships to non-U.S. citizens. | 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 |
| [Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program](http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/young-scholars/) | The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a selective five-year, pre-college scholarship for high-performing 7th-grade students with financial need. It provides comprehensive academic and college advising and financial support for school, Cooke-sponsored summer programs, internships, and other learning enrichment opportunities. | 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 essay of 500 to 1,000 words on e-waste. | 4/30 |
| [A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship](http://www.aises.org/students/scholarships) | ($1,000) - This scholarship is awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian AISES members pursuing the sciences, engineering, medicine, natural resources, math & technology degrees. Students must submit three essays (prompts provided), each up to 1,000 words in length. | 4/30 |
| [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 baccalaureate, associate, or vocational/technical certification program students. | 4/30 |
| [The Paradigm Challenge](http://www.projectparadigm.org/) | ($200 - $100,000) The Paradigm Challenge is an annual competition that invites students aged 4 to 18 worldwide to utilize kindness, creativity, and collaboration to solve real-life problems and make a positive difference. | 5/1 |
| [STEM Stars Actuarial Scholarship Program](https://www.actuarialfoundation.org/scholarships/) | $20,000 (distributed over four years at $5,000 annually) The Actuarial Diversity Scholarship Has Merged With STEM Stars. The STEM Stars Actuarial Scholars Program was established to promote diversity in the actuarial profession. | 5/7 |
| [STEM Signing Day](https://www.partnership4learning.org/stemsigningday) | All Washington high school seniors graduating in 2025 and planning to pursue a postsecondary pathway in a STEM field are invited to apply! Those selected to be honored during a special event hosted in partnership with Boeing, the Seattle Seahawks, and Partnership for Learning. | 5/11 |
| [Puget Sound Scholarships (PRSA): Horace and Susie Revels Cayton Scholarship](https://www.prsafoundation.org/scholarships-awards/prsa-puget-sound-scholarships/) | Award: $4,000 - This scholarship was established in 1992 in memory of Horace and Susie Revels Cayton. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Caytons were editors of a popular political newspaper, The Seattle Republican. Later in life, after publishing Cayton's Weekly, the couple turned their publishing expertise into a business and were likely Seattle's first Black public relations practitioners. Each year, the Chapter seeks to recognize a student from a systemically underrepresented racial or ethnic background attending a school in Washington State who demonstrates academic achievement and a desire to pursue a career in public relations. | 5/29 |
| [Puget Sound Scholarships (PRSA): Sally Heet Memorial Scholarship](https://www.prsafoundation.org/scholarships-awards/) | Award: $4,000 - This annual award is presented to an outstanding public relations student from a college or university in WA. | 5/29 |
| [Ann Gallagher Memorial Scholarship](https://www.wabuildingtrades.org/scholarship.html) | ($1,000) This scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors whose parent or guardian is a member of an affiliated union. | 5/30 |
| [Humane Education Network: A Voice for Animals HS Essay Contest](http://www.hennet.org/contest.php) | For HS students (ages 14-19). $150-$650. Rules & requirements may vary from year to year. For 2025, a special topic category, "Protecting Marine Life from Human Impact," is available, which can be applied across all eligible age groups and submission types. This option is in addition to the standard categories: Companion Animals, Farm Animals, Wildlife on Land, and Wildlife in the Oceans. | 5/31 |
| [Jayme Biendl Working Womxn's Scholarship](https://www.teamsters117.org/biendl) | Teamsters Local 117 has established a new scholarship fund to support working Teamster women and their dependents. The Jayme Biendl Working Womxn's scholarship was established in memory of Officer Jayme Biendl of the Monroe Correctional Complex, who was killed in the line of duty in 2011. | 5/31 |
| [American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship](http://collegefund.org/student-resources/scholarships/scholarship-programs/) | Full Circle Scholarship: The American Indian College Fund supports American Indian and Alaska Native college students seeking technical, undergraduate, and graduate degrees at tribal colleges and other nonprofit, accredited schools. Any Native American U.S. citizen who is a member or descendant of a state or federally recognized tribe, has at least a 2.0 grade point average, and is enrolled full-time can apply for a scholarship. | 5/31 |
| [College is Power Scholarship](http://www.collegeispower.com/scholarship.cfm) | ($1,000) Open to students age 17 and older who are currently in college or plan to start college within the next 12 months. | 5/31 |
| [Fifth Month Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "May is the fifth month of the year. Write a letter to the number five explaining why five is important. Be serious or be funny. Either way, here's a high five for being original." Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application. | 5/31 |
| [We the Future Contest](http://constitutingamerica.org/downloads.php) | Open to K -12 students, college students, law school students, graduate students, adults 25 years and older, and seniors 65 years and older. Each age group has different requirements, so applicants are advised to visit the website for detailed information. The amount varies. | 5/31 |
| [UW Young Executives of Color Program](http://foster.uw.edu/academics/degree-programs/undergraduate-programs/diversity-services/young-executives-of-color-yeoc/) | YEOC is a nine-month college pipeline program hosted by the UW Foster School of Business. The program serves 170 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 73 schools in Washington. Students attend sessions on the UW campus one Saturday every month for college preparation, business lectures, professional development, and powerful mentorship. YEOC is a FREE 9-month program. The only cost is transportation. | 5/31 |
| [cid:image003.jpg@01D341AB.22959DC0](http://www.facebook.com/gearupwa)[cid:image005.jpg@01D341AB.22959DC0](http://www.instagram.com/gearupwa)[cid:image015.jpg@01D341AF.8987B190](http://bit.ly/gearupwa) | | |
| 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. | | |