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| Issue: April 7-11, 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 students from 7th to 12th grade. 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.
* **Match Tip of the Week**: Because College Board and ACT specifically allow for waivers for GEAR UP students, you may count these waivers as a match. Document this match with a copy of the student’s waiver form, then attach it to a Goods and Services Match Form. This tip includes waivers for their products, including the PSAT and ACCUPLACER.

## 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.
* **2025-26 FAFSA Form Reminder Campaign.** In February, Federal Student Aid (FSA) emailed students and parents of 2023–24 and 2024–25 FAFSA filers who have not yet submitted the 2025–26 FAFSA form. The campaign reminds families that the FAFSA is available for school students from July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. FSA encourages college access advisors and educators to use [the email template to contact students and families.](https://fsapartners.ed.gov/sites/default/files/2025-03/202526FAFSAFormisLiveReminderEmail.pdf)

## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

* **[Spring 2025 PNACAC College Fairs](https://connect.pnacac.org/register/spring2025fairs).** Apr. 12 - Boise State University, Apr. 24 - Edmonds-Woodway HS, Apr. 26 - Seattle University, and Apr. 27- University of Portland.

## Optional Professional Development

* **[Supporting College-Going Identity in Students Is Key to Their Development](https://www.ncan.org/news/696777/Supporting-College-Going-Identity-in-Students-Is-Key-to-Their-Development.htm).** NCAN is featuring Dr. Savitz-Romer's work in a series titled "A Developmental Approach to College Access and Success," consisting of webinars, blog posts, and peer exchanges. [Webinars (for NCAN members only):](https://www.ncan.org/page/WebinarArchives) Ensuring Students Are Ready, Willing, and Able to Pursue Postsecondary Pathways and Supporting Students’ Future-Oriented Identities. *Blogs:* [How to Connect Developmental Theory and Practice to Improve Postsecondary Advising](https://www.ncan.org/news/689338/How-to-Connect-Developmental-Theory-and-Practice-to-Improve-Postsecondary-Advising.htm)
* **Webinar:** [**The Final Stretch: From HS Graduation to College.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hiuQz5GoTLWX4iZ2Rtlrvg#/registration) By COP. Clock hours available. ([Flyer](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAOSPI/2025/03/24/file_attachments/3206865/HS%2520to%2520College%2520Transition%2520Webinar%2520Flyer.pdf/1/01000195cd816750-f57ababb-94b5-449e-bbcc-18aa020f52f1-000000/2yshWih2WL4mvt0dQnUgFjQwJwVt_EO_Qm5PNTEn_nA%3D398)) Apr. 9, 10:30 AM.
* **GEAR UP Discussion Lab:** [**Connecting with Alumni.**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/discussion-labs) Join us on Apr. 10 at noon to discuss how GEAR UP programs can connect with and integrate alumni into their programming.
* **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 it to the live event? Register now, and they will email a recording.
* **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.
* [**Integrated MTSS Conference**](https://www.pdenroller.org/catalog/event/181084). Jul. 30- Aug 1, Wenatchee.

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter: Information on Student Loans**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/understanding-your-financial-aid-award-letter-information-student-loans).
* [**Understanding Aid Options and Comparing Award Letters.**](https://www.studentloaned.wa.gov/courses/understanding-aid-options-and-comparing-award-letters/) WSAC’s student loan education site features a series of modules that provide information on various topics. Discover short videos, a glossary, and additional resources.
* [**13 Things to Know When Evaluating Your Financial Aid Offers.**](https://studentaid.gov/articles/evaluating-financial-aid-offers)Learn how to interpret and understand what you’re committing to, as this could save you from future surprises and thousands of dollars in payments.
* [**OtterBot**.](https://wsac.wa.gov/otterbot) OtterBot now supports students in 9th through 12th grade, as well as their parents or guardians. This free texting service is designed to help all Washington high school students and their parents or guardians. It is designed for high school students who are enrolled in [College Bound](https://wsac.wa.gov/college-bound). It is a great source of information about financial aid, college planning, and reminders. Available 24/7. Keep your contact information up to date to ensure you receive this vital information.
* **Listen:** [**How to Prep Gen Z for Jobs of the Future**](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/life-after-college/2025/04/02/podcast-helping-gen-z-navigate-future-careers)**.** Today’s college students face an unpredictable job market. Two experts share experiential learning strategies to assist with the transition from college to career.

## In The News

* [7 Learning Myths Your Students Probably Believe](https://www.edutopia.org/article/learning-myths-students-believe)
* [How The Education Department Helps Students With Disabilities Get An Education](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/03/nx-s1-5338953/trump-layoffs-education-department-special-education)
* [How Does Deportation Work?](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/07/nx-s1-5308051/deportation-timeline-cost)
* [We Have A Crisis In Public School Leadership: Leaders Are Overwhelmed, Overworked & Lack The Training They Need](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-we-have-a-crisis-in-public-school-leadership-our-leaders-are-overwhelmed-overworked-and-lack-the-training-they-need)
* [Trump Administration Threatens To Withhold Funds From Public Schools](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fheeptedbb.cc.rs6.net%2Ftn.jsp%3Ff%3D001XDdT298VusPEIsgc4wuBox1PKgYasx1zUwpwlsZKKK_K2gyt9K71N2OOIEG4ORPoyCMts6IcvVy1DJBFzO63qHAqcB0sKnifygQyd4RaBlbcYcRw6cVpbzJ1naE7tA0yKVCHjse_bB_aob8oyxB87-88rbIgyFbg9fyho4ZKxGbhk2xdkdvsZTspDjDs1tC8Tds6_lHVaN6XLHAN1wnNCIcRXVOcq4fWbbEK4z9Rg7_U9Y5p-WqGThbQugtXIotr_1AE7WyEXyk%3D%26c%3Dj3Iv7g1dwK-35Tvm74nZhd8WF4fCV5WST3yLBZNsNKISWvHasGOM7w%3D%3D%26ch%3D-qBa_rOSJy5Tua76KXETAFm863FWbwGSVwptNv_VR31EUFk23Owtrg%3D%3D&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C8361c89d771048f08f7c08dd72ce58b9%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638792952772484567%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=AH2d5tpuXljFsl7o27hVAXOz2UVn%2FSgk5BHU37kWHWg%3D&reserved=0)
* What Dismantling The Education Dept. Means For Family And Community Engagement
* [New ‘Save Our Schools’ Campaign To Challenge Education Department Closure](https://districtadministration.com/article/new-save-our-schools-campaign-to-challenge-education-department-closure/)
* [How Schools Can Help Students Facing Homelessness Get To Class](https://edsource.org/2025/how-schools-can-help-students-facing-homelessness-get-to-class/729375)
* [The First Rule Of SEL For Older Students? Don’t Be Boring](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-first-rule-of-sel-for-older-students-dont-be-boring/2025/03)
* [How The Education Department Helps Students With Disabilities Get An Education](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/03/nx-s1-5338953/trump-layoffs-education-department-special-education)
* [Linda McMahon Says The Education Department Has Failed Students. Is It True? Here’s What The Data Show.](https://www.bostonglobe.com/2025/04/07/metro/trump-education-department-mcmahon/)
* [The Pandemic Is Not The Only Reason U.S. Students Are Losing Ground](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/07/us/low-performing-students-reasons.html)
* [Why IEPs Could Become More Frustrating For Parents Of Kids With Disabilities](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2025/04/05/iep-frustrate-parents-schools-kids-with-disabilities/82677245007/)

## 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 be used to 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 of their choice. 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 are required to submit three essays (prompts provided), each of which is 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%3A//www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/AP_0006.pdf/2/01000195811beadb-ddd0deda-3392-4845-87db-dae937ecd853-000000/V_AUn5RXO2wuAsqr1bbCwTyxzJe2QAjU_HaSV9ezJ2w%3D395) | 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 as well as 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 the topic of 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 are required to submit three essays (prompts provided), each of which is 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 from around the world to utilize kindness, creativity, and collaboration in solving real-life problems and making a positive difference in the world. | 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 |
| [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 intended 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 with at least a 2.0 grade point average and enrolled as a full-time student 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 to you 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 school students, adults 25 years of age and older, and seniors 65 years of age 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 currently serves 170 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 73 schools in the state of 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 |
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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. |