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| Issue: April 21-25, 2025 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **FYI:** [**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 and are available in *Arabic, Chinese, English, Korean, Marshallese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese.*
* **FYI:** [**College Bound 201: Best Practices**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Bnrlty6VS7uiEPuIOUFxyw?utm_medium=email&utm_source=WSAC#/registration) **Webinar.**Hands-on strategies, checklists, and tools to apply your knowledge. Apr. 24, 9–10:30 AM
* **Save the Date:** [**GEAR UP West Conference.**](https://oregongoestocollege.org/gearupwest)Oct. 26-28, Portland. Call for Proposal to open soon!
* **Match Tip of the Week**: Students enjoy food, snacks, and treats. They even appreciate non-food incentives! Have you considered asking local businesses or individuals for donations to support this cause? For instance, if you ask, many Starbucks locations will donate a "Joe to Go" box of coffee for a family event. Additionally, your local grocery store might contribute a box of donuts for your Advisory Committee meeting. *See:* [*TEMPLATE: Donation Letter*](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/template-donation-letter).

## FAFSA Updates and Resources

* **Financial Aid Events:** [**12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.**](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events) Virtual and Spanish events available. Share with students and families.
* To plan a virtual event, use WSAC’s [**12th Year Campaign Toolkit**](https://padlet.com/christinaw12/12th-year-campaign-virtual-financial-aid-event-toolkit-i3kcbg5l658jindj) and [**register your event**](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6831054/12th-Year-Campaign-Registration-Form).
* **Review WSAC’s 2024-25 "Financial Aid 101"** (English: [Recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=s_hZud_VIF_QkG8W) | [Slides](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Financial-Aid-101-Presentation.pdf); Spanish: [Recording](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pk2h-_wQdQs) | [Slides](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/Financial-Aid-101-Presentation-Spanish.pdf)).
* **Request event support from WCAN.** Contact directly or email info@wcan.org for financial aid or CBS events.
* **Encourage OtterBot Signup.** Help HS students & parents get help with our [chatbot.](https://wsac.wa.gov/otterbot)

## 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

* [**Supporting LGBTQ+ Students in Schools: Advocacy and Policy Updates**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rXhKjYxHO_8). View LEVinar recording. Learn how to create safe, affirming, and inclusive learning environments. Panelists across WA share best practices and tools.
* [**Podcast: Higher Ed Advocacy in Uncertain Times: Navigating Policy Changes in College Admissions**](https://open.spotify.com/episode/0uRUsTAMXXDmrCZE6xdwrA)**.** NACAC discusses the administration's changes to education policy, including efforts to dismantle the U.S. Dept of Ed and anti-DEI initiatives, and how these policies impact students, institutions, and the college admission landscape. They also share opportunities and strategies for advocacy.
* **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.
* [**GEAR UP West.**](https://oregongoestocollege.org/gearupwest)Oct. 26-28, Portland. Call for Proposal to open soon!

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Award Letter Key Components**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/key-components-understanding-your-award-letter)**|**[**Award Letter Worksheet - Living off-campus**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/understanding-your-award-letter-worksheet-living-campus-andor-parents)**|**[**Award Letter Worksheet - Living on-campus**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/understanding-your-award-letter-worksheet-living-campus-andor-parents)  **|** [**Understanding Your Financial Aid Award Letter: Information on Student Loans**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/understanding-your-financial-aid-award-letter-information-student-loans)**|** [**Which Financial Aid Is the Best to Accept?**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/which-financial-aid-best-accept) These handouts accompany the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook.
* [**You Got Accepted — Now What?**](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/after-youve-applied/you-got-accepted-now-what) From BigFuture. Tips to help students decide.
* [**The Washington Student Loan Education Site.**](https://www.studentloaned.wa.gov/)From WSAC. Get modules and resources on paying for college.
* [**NACAC’s Annual College Openings Update**](https://www.nacacnet.org/college-openings-update/). This is a voluntary listing of NACAC-member postsecondary institutions still accepting applications from prospective first-year and/or transfer students for the upcoming fall term.
* [**The Long-Term Rewards of a Guest Speaker Series**](https://www.edutopia.org/article/providing-networking-opportunities-high-school-students). Bringing in guest speakers offers high school students valuable connections and insights for the future.

## In The News

* [State Superintendent Reykdal’s Statement On RFK’s Comments About People With Autism](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/news-center/news-releases/state-superintendent-chris-reykdals-statement-us-health-and-human-services-secretarys-comments-about)
* [27 Super-Smart, Teacher-Tested Closing Activities](https://www.edutopia.org/article/engaging-closure-activities)
* [As Special Ed Students Are Integrated More At School, Teacher Training Is Evolving](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/15/nx-s1-5247585/teacher-training-special-education-disabilities-schools)
* [Students, Some University Leaders Rebuke Trump Administration Over Visas](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/04/15/some-push-back-trump-revokes-hundreds-student-visas)
* [LaunchNW Awards Over $900k To Rural Communities](https://www.spokanejournal.com/articles/17022-launchnw-awards-over-900k-to-rural-communities)
* [College Uncovered: Tag, You’re In!](https://hechingerreport.org/college-uncovered-tag-youre-in/)
* [AmeriCorps Staff Members Placed On Leave After DOGE Visit](https://www.msn.com/en-us/general/general/americorps-staff-members-placed-on-leave-after-doge-visit)
* [Harvard Professor Gives Perspective On The Trump Administration Clash With the University](https://www.npr.org/2025/04/16/nx-s1-5365978/trump-funding-cut-harvard)
* [Inside Trump's Full-Force Approach To Ban Trans Athletes And DEI In Schools](https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/inside-trumps-full-force-approach-to-ban-trans-athletes-and-dei-in-schools/2025/04)
* [Manufacturing Jobs Are Never Coming Back](https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/408949/manufacturing-jobs-tariffs-trump-trade-automation)
* [Texas Is Poised To Create A $1 Billion Private School Voucher Program](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/17/us/texas-trump-private-school-vouchers.html?unlocked_article_code=1.AU8.5hHd.-fRKt6yaMTaA&smid=url-share)
* [A Legal Battle Over Trump’s Threats To Public School Funding Has Begun](https://www.nytimes.com/2025/04/17/us/dei-public-schools-trump-administration-lawsuit.html?unlocked_article_code=1.AU8.WKhh.prNMtNk3pw3k&smid=url-share)
* [‘Everyone Welcome’ Classroom Sign At Center Of Divided School Board Meeting](https://www.oregonlive.com/education/2025/04/everyone-welcome-classroom-sign-at-center-of-divided-school-board-meeting.html)
* [Washington's Top School Official On Protections For Trans Students And Access To Federal Funds](https://www.knkx.org/politics/2025-03-07/washington-superintendent-public-instruction-chris-reykdal-school-tumwater-trump-federal-funds-trans-athletes-education-dept)
* [Could Washington State Be On The Brink Of Fully Funding Special Education?](https://www.kuow.org/stories/long-overdue-wa-lawmakers-may-remove-cap-on-special-education-funding)
* [Schools Push Career Ed Classes ‘For All,’ Even Kids Heading To College](https://hechingerreport.org/schools-push-career-ed-classes-for-all-even-kids-heading-to-college)
* [Can Colleges Survive Trump’s Cuts?](https://www.chronicle.com/article/can-colleges-survive-trumps-cuts)
* [Lower Columbia College To Offer First 4-Year Degree](https://tdn.com/news/local/education/article_12e69812-039a-4692-9c04-392bcbbc3a7c.html)

## 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** |
| [Thurgood Marshall College Fund](https://www.tmcf.org/) | High school seniors with a 2.75+ GPA who are Pell Grant-eligible and of good moral character can apply for scholarships up to $10,000. Must plan to enroll full-time at a two- or four-year college, university, or technical program.  | 4/25 |
| [National STEM Excellence Scholarship Program](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3Dec137b5012%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C6e30370b92c648568c6408dd7ce6d289%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638804053020816392%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bdfZyU2zxhOI5lCd%2FbD0iO0jE7UbL5%2BgxzIX5614C10%3D&reserved=0) | This $10,000 one-time scholarship supports students pursuing careers in science, technology, engineering, and math. It is open to seniors, recent graduates, and current undergrads. Selection is based on academic achievement, leadership, and work experience. | 4/28 |
| [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%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 descent 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 fewer, 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 fewer, 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 |
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