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| **Issue:** August 11-15, 2025 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

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| * **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.*
* **Match Tip:** Are you an AVID school? If so, staff time at the Summer Institute counts as match. GEAR UP doesn’t pay staff time to attend, so it always counts.
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## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

[**Fall PNACAC College Fairs:**](https://www.pnacac.org/college-fairs_1/fall-college-fairs) Thurston County Fair – Oct. 13 (SMU) and Pierce County Fair - Oct. 16 (TCC).

[**Fall NACAC College Fairs**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**:** Virtual and in-person events. Dates: Sept. 14 (Virtual), Oct. 9 (Performing and Visual Arts, Seattle), Oct. 12-13 (PDX), Oct. 15 (Spokane), Oct. 17-18 (Seattle), Oct. 19 (Virtual), and Nov. 9 (Virtual).

## Optional Professional Development

* Free and open to the public: [**NCAN Counselor Week Part III: 2026-27 FAFSA Updates**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1970372&hhSearchTerms=%22counselor+and+week%22&fbclid=IwY2xjawMIIClleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFuMWlqeWpZelR0b0FablhzAR5U-Z1ty9db66H3AQtoOXIiAlb92C_NgbaI9NPiQh9vDTllyEF_CgMRx3d_1g_aem_xn6bO6qeC7I49O6-7fCHig). Get prepared for the Oct. 1 launch with insights from experts at the Office of Federal Student Aid and NCAN. **Aug. 14, at 11 AM!**
* [**Apply for a Fall Learning Lab.**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/learning-labs) These NCCEP courses are for small cohorts of GU professionals. Join a three-month session starting Sept. 8! **Save your spot by Aug. 25.**
	+ **College Advising Learning Lab:** Led in collaboration with Bottom Line, participants practice college advising strategies including identifying fit factors, making college lists, completing applications for college and financial aid, and deciding which college to attend.
	+ **NEW! Onboarding Learning Lab:** Redesigned with input from GU Directors, this introductory experience covers the basics for anyone new to GU. Participants build a national network while learning about GU’s history, administration, and regulations.
* [**WCHSCR Fall Counselor Tour.**](https://www.wa-council.org/) Sept. 8 (ECC), Sept. 9 (UWB), Sept. 10 (CPTC), Sept. 11 (CBC), Sept. 12 (EWU), Sept. 16 (Virtual).
* [**NCAN National Conference**.](https://conference.ncan.org/event/744a86e4-8a43-4d6b-8404-256cb8a08470/ncan-2025) Sept. 8-10, New Orleans, LA.
* [**GEAR UP West.**](https://oregongoestocollege.org/gearupwest)Oct. 26-28, Portland.

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**A Family Guide: Supporting Your Child After High School.**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/family-guide-supporting-your-child-after-high-school) This document is intended to support families as their children transition to college. Available in Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.
* **Sign Up!** [**12th Year Campaign.**](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6831054/12th-Year-Campaign-Registration-Form) This WA State campaign includes the American College Application Campaign and College Goal Washington (Financial Aid Filing). Sign up to receive free training, printed materials, and other resources to support their students in 2025-26!
* [**Skill Up for Our Future**](https://www.waroundtable.com/skillupwa/)**.** From WA Roundtable. Thisreport outlines WA’s projected workforce demand over the next decade, highlights six occupation clusters where job growth will be concentrated, and identifies the credentials needed to access those opportunities. **Students:** Take our quiz to find your fit: [bit.ly/Skill-Up-Quiz.](https://bit.ly/Skill-Up-Quiz?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAYnJpZBExaUU3R0M3MTdqS2M4Z3lxawEeE7Sr3JXBhSIYCGrhXJAvW5tNGRQoQyOSZ3UuPnPvRr-jMAAsMXmSEmsVS5s_aem_F0c4mB9BCdmtFXq1T21fNg)
* [**Are You Going To Be A High School Senior?**](http://wsac.wa.gov/senior-year) WSAC has tips to help you prepare for education or training after high school. TIP 4: Make a calendar for important dates.
* [**13 Podcast Episodes To Make Back-To-School Season Easier**](https://www.npr.org/2025/08/08/nx-s1-5494561/podcast-episodes-back-to-school-less-stressful-kids-parents). Back-to-school season can be stressful for both kids and parents. NPR's Life Kit has rounded up 13 podcast episodes with expert tips on easing first-day jitters, building daily connections, and keeping family stress in check.

## In The News

 *Need help crafting a GEAR UP story for local media? Explore*[*NCCEP’s tools*](https://www.edpartnerships.org/gear-up-good-news) *and don’t forget to* [*Share Your GEAR UP Good News.*](https://www.surveygizmo.com/s3/4882239/Digest-News-Submissions)

* [30 Ways to Bring Calm to a Noisy High School Classroom](https://www.edutopia.org/article/30-ways-to-bring-calm-to-a-noisy-high-school-classroom)
* [Building Authentic Community During Meetings](https://www.edutopia.org/article/how-start-meetings-right-school)
* [AI Could Widen The Wealth Gap And Wipe Out Entry-Level Jobs, Expert Says](https://www.npr.org/2025/08/05/nx-s1-5485286/ai-jobs-economy-wealth-gap)
* [This School Built High-End Training Sites On Campus To Prepare Students For Local Skilled Jobs](https://hechingerreport.org/this-school-built-high-end-training-sites-on-campus-to-prepare-students-for-local-skilled-jobs)
* [AI Is Just The Beginning. Meet The Minds Mapping What's Next](https://www.npr.org/2025/07/25/1256217302/ted-radio-hour-prophets-of-technology-part-3)
* [Adding Bus Stops, Serving Biscuits And Gravy, And Catching Butterflies: How Schools Are Tackling Absenteeism](https://hechingerreport.org/proof-points-schools-tackle-absenteeism)
* [Three Challenges UW’s New President Faces As He Takes The Helm](https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/three-challenges-uws-new-president-faces-as-he-takes-the-helm/)
* [The Power Of A 45-Second Investment In Relationship Building](https://www.edutopia.org/article/building-relationships-students-first-week)
* [20 WA Superintendents Are Reenvisioning State’s ‘Broken’ K-12 Funding Model](https://www.cascadiadaily.com/2025/aug/06/20-wa-superintendents-are-reenvisioning-states-broken-k-12-funding-model)
* [WA Slashes Grants Funding Foster Care Programs Amid Budget Deficit](https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/wa-slashes-grants-funding-foster-care-programs-amid-budget-deficit)
* [Trump Orders Colleges To Prove They Don’t Consider Race In Admissions](https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation/trump-plans-to-sign-an-order-requiring-colleges-to-prove-they-dont-consider-race-in-admissions/)
* [State Superintendent Chris Reykdal’s Statement On The Trump Administration's Decision To Release Their Hold On Congressionally Approved K–12 Education Funding](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/news-center/news-releases/state-superintendent-chris-reykdals-statement-trump-administrations-decision-release-their-hold)
* [Teens Are The Loneliest People In The World, A New Report Finds. Why?](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/teens-are-the-loneliest-people-in-the-world-a-new-report-finds-why/2025/08)
* [AI Has Done Far More Harm Than Good In My Classroom](https://www.edweek.org/technology/opinion-ai-has-done-far-more-harm-than-good-in-my-classroom/2025/08)
* [FSA Launches Beta Version Of FAFSA Ahead Of Schedule](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2025/08/06/fsa-launches-beta-version-fafsa)

## 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 |
| [Make Me Laugh Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/make-me-laugh-scholarship) | ($1,500) - Make Me Laugh is a fun scholarship that lets you cut loose and lighten up the atmosphere. Looking for a scholarship for comedians? Now is your chance to show us your funny bone. Perhaps you always have an embarrassing yet funny story to share. Great! We'll promise to laugh with you, not at you. Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application. | 8/31 |
| [American Fire Sprinkler Association Second Chance Scholarship Contest](https://www.afsascholarship.org/) | Open to anyone who has graduated from high school or its equivalent and wants to pursue a college degree or trade school education. Enter for the chance to win 1 of 5 $1,000 College Scholarships. | 9/1 |
| [Conscious Consumer Scholarship](https://bold.org/scholarships/conscious-consumer-scholarship/) | $1,000 - Today, it’s vital to be a conscious consumer — understanding, handling, and making smart financial decisions. This is especially true for students today who are building financial literacy skills as they start their careers.  | 9/1 |
| [Be Bold" No-Essay Scholarship](https://bold.org/scholarships/the-be-bold-no-essay-scholarship/) | The $25,000 “Be Bold” Scholarship is an easy no-essay scholarship that will be awarded to the applicant with the boldest profile. | 9/1 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest](https://www.justpoetry.org/submissions.html) | Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to $500. | 9/30 |
| [Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship](http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/#programs) | ($20,000) - High school seniors with a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA may apply on our website in August of their senior year until the September 30 deadline. 150 Coca-Cola Scholars are selected each year to receive this $20,000 scholarship. | 9/30 |
| [Dr. Pepper Tuition Giveaway.](https://www.drpeppertuition.com/program-details) | ($2,500-$100,000) - Make and submit a video that helps us get to know you. Tell us about your academic goals, professional aspirations, or even personal dreams.Your video will be judged on the following four criteria: career goals, need for tuition assistance, impact of tuition assistance, and overall presentation quality and delivery. It must be 60 seconds or less and in MP4, MOV, or WMV format. Be passionate, be creative, be you. | 9/30 |
| [Don’t Text and Drive Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship) | ($1,000) - Complete the application form, including a 140-character message about texting while driving. The top 10 applications will be selected as finalists. The finalists will be asked to write a full-length 500- to 1,000-word essay about texting while driving. | 9/30 |
| [Shout It Out Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/shout-it-out-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or fewer, submit an online written response to the question: "If you could say one thing to the entire world at once, what would it be and why?"  | 9/30 |
| [NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing](https://www.aspirations.org/award-programs/apply-for-the-award-for-aic) | For 9th - 12th grade students for their computing-related achievements and interests, and encourages them to pursue their passions. | 10/28 |
| [U.S. Bank Scholarship Program](https://www.usbank.com/about-us-bank/community/student-scholarship.html) | Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win. $2,500-$20,000 | 10/30 |
| [Voice of Democracy Scholarship.](https://www.vfw.org/VOD/) | ($35,000) The Voice of Democracy audio-essay program offers high school students a unique opportunity to express themselves through a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first-place winner receives a $35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college, or vocational/technical school. | 10/31 |
| [Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship) | ($2,000) - In 250 words or fewer, submit a response to the question: "Imagine that your high school or college has been overrun with zombies. Your math professor, the cafeteria ladies, and even your best friend have all joined the walking dead. Flesh out a plan to avoid the zombies, including where you’d hide and the top-five things you’d bring to stay alive." | 10/31 |
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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. |
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