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| Issue: August 26-30, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Upcoming Website Redesign!** Get ready for an exciting change! WA State GEAR UP is thrilled to announce that gearup.wa.gov is being redesigned and will be unveiled this fall. The new design will provide a more user-friendly and interactive experience, with improved access to resources. Stay tuned for updates!
* [National GEAR UP Week](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D79ae46de28%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Cb4b6edec0eca42ad728908dbfbee5407%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638380773276189820%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v%2F0B04E%2FzPLynNv9fVxpF2I941GFulEB8IYKeQWUzt0%3D&reserved=0) will occur September 23–27, 2024. Feel free to use our resources to plan for this week.
* **2024-25 FAFSA Updates:** Stay up-to-date on [FAFSA changes](https://wsac.wa.gov/2024-25-FAFSA-Updates).
  + [Free FAFSA/WASFA Help To 2024 High School Graduates.](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/our-approach/financial-aid/) College Success Foundation (CSF) offers free, virtual one-on-one sessions through September! Sessions are available in English, Spanish, or other languages upon request. Book a meeting at the link—in-person events in Spokane and Yakima.
  + [College Possible Washington](https://collegepossible.org/) also offers in-person and virtual FAFSA/WASFA [completion workshops and individual appointments](https://sites.google.com/collegepossible.org/finaid-event-registration/home) for students and family members to drop in and get support.

## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

* [12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.42fu3w63mb46) Most events are virtual. Spanish events are available.
* [Thurston County NACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 23.
* [Pierce County PNACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 24.
* [Seattle NACAC Fair](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/). Oct. 25 & Oct. 26.
* [Portland NACAC Fair.](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/) Oct. 27 & Oct. 28.
* [Spokane NACAC Fair](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/). Oct. 29.

## Optional Professional Development

* [NCCEP Coordinator Learning Lab](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024/fall-cll" \t "_blank). This short-term, cohort-based professional development program is for new GEAR UP coordinators. It offers a place for coordinators to come together and explore common challenges facing GEAR UP professionals. The next session is Sept. 16 – Nov. 22. Apply by Aug. 31.
* Webinar: [Learnings from the 24-25 FAFSA and Preparing for 25-26](https://www.uaspire.org/news-events/learnings-from-the-24-25-fafsa-and-preparing-for-25-26-a7c5041edb901dcf707fc42dbb83526f). From uAspire. Sept. 12, 9 AM.
* [OSPI & ESDs to Host HSBP Listen & Learn Stakeholder Events in September and October!](https://oercommons.s3.amazonaws.com/media/editor/389544/Listen__Learn_Session.pdf) Each ESD will partner with OSPI to host their event, offering in-person and virtual options. See the link for dates/times, locations, and registration.

* [WCHSCR Fall Counselor Workshops.](https://www.wa-council.org/)  For school counselors, career center specialists, HSBP coordinators, and those in college-access work. Held in-person and virtually. Hear updates from OSPI, SBE, SBCTC, COP, ICW, and WSAC, as well as from our public and private four-year institutions and community and technical colleges.
  + Sept. 9 – [Fall Counselor Workshop – Cheney @ EWU](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-cheney-eastern-washington-university-tickets-912250093587)
  + Sept. 10– [Fall Counselor Workshop – Pasco @ CBC](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-pasco-columbia-basin-college-tickets-912324215287)
  + Sept. 11– [Fall Counselor Workshop – Vancouver @ WSU Vancouver](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-vancouver-wsu-vancouver-tickets-919693998507)
  + Sept. 12–[Fall Counselor Workshop – Lakewood @ CPT](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-lakewood-clover-park-technical-college-tickets-919706154867)
  + Sept. 13– [Fall Counselor Workshop – Bothell @ UW Bothell](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/fall-counselor-update-bothell-uw-bothell-tickets-919719173807)
  + Sept. 17– [Fall Counselor Workshop – Virtual Option](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-fall-counselor-workshop-virtual-tickets-920287593967)

* [OSPI-WSAC Webinar Series Returns](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/student-success/graduation/career-and-college-readiness). Oct. 2, 9 AM.
* [Webinar Series for K-12 by WA Public 4-Year Universities](https://councilofpresidents.org/_admissions/). For K-12 practitioners by COP. Find recordings, materials, and links under the Admissions Webinars tab.
  + [Oct. 9: Understanding Success from the College Admissions Perspective](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P8WZpWT4SNSL4tHBznJGMw)
  + [Nov. 4 Diving Deep into Admissions](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_36e5tUOJTgaysucrdSYevw)
  + [Apr. 9: The Final Stretch: From High School Graduation to College](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hiuQz5GoTLWX4iZ2Rtlrvg)
* [WSCA Leadership Conference.](https://leadership.wscaconference.org/) Oct. 11-12, Spokane.
* [GEAR UP West.](https://go.wsuprofed.com/website/72800/) Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM.

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [Preparing Students with Disabilities for Postsecondary Education](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/preparing-students-disabilities-postsecondary-education-resource-guide-use-gear-school-staff). This guide is designed to assist those who work with high school students with disabilities who plan to continue their education in postsecondary institutions, including vocational and career schools, two—and four-year colleges, and universities.
* [Common App.](https://www.commonapp.org/explore/) It is now open with over 1,100 member colleges and universities to choose from! Visit their Explore page to filter schools by your interests and create a personalized list.
* [Bring AJAC To Your Classroom!](https://www.ajactraining.org/programs/youth/ajac-classroom-presentation) From AJAC Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships. AJAC offers an incredible opportunity, but it’s tailored for a specific group of students. This program is perfect for those who want to jumpstart their careers in advanced manufacturing while still in high school. It’s designed for students seeking a non-traditional learning experience where they can simultaneously work in an adult environment and complete their high school credits. To ensure we reach the students who will benefit most from this work-based learning experience, we prefer in-class presentations over the broad approach of career fairs. See [AJAC Class Presentation Application](https://www.tfaforms.com/5136888)

## In The News

* [Anti-LGBTQ+ School Policies And LGBTQ+ Young People](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/anti-lgbtq-school-policies-and-lgbtq-young-people/)
* [If Walz Becomes VP, His Deputy Would Become America's First Indigenous Woman Governor](https://www.npr.org/live-updates/democratic-national-convention-kamala-harris-tim-walz)
* [‘Not Waiting For People To Save Us’: 9 School Districts Combine Forces To Help Students](https://hechingerreport.org/not-waiting-for-people-to-save-us-9-school-districts-combine-forces-to-help-students/)
* [The Fastest-Growing College Expense May Not Be What People Think](https://hechingerreport.org/the-fastest-growing-college-expense-may-not-be-what-people-think)
* [Most Community College Students Plan To Get 4-Year Degrees. Few Actually Do](https://www.npr.org/2024/08/21/nx-s1-4930527/community-college-affordable-bachelors-degree)
* [The Start Of School Is Always Stressful, But Even More So For Neurodivergent Students — And Their Parents](https://hechingerreport.org/the-start-of-school-is-always-stressful-but-even-more-so-for-neurodivergent-students-and-their-parents)
* [For Parents, College Choice Is All About Cost](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/financial-aid/2024/08/22/parents-value-clear-communication-about-college-cost-survey)
* [Seattle Researcher Explores How TikTok Might Influence Youth Mental Health: Healthlink](https://www.king5.com/article/news/health/seattle-researcher-how-tiktok-influence-youth-mental-health-healthlink/281-af6e3731-7cdc-4201-b3a2-70196108ebd9)
* [Navigating College Life: Supporting LGBTQ+ Students In The Era Of Anti-DEI Legislation](https://www.ncan.org/news/680533/Navigating-College-Life-Supporting-LGBTQ-Students-in-the-Era-of-Anti-DEI-Legislation.htm" \t "_blank)
* [Socioeconomic Status Matters In Student Achievement—But It’s Not Everything](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/socioeconomic-status-matters-in-student-achievement-but-its-not-everything/2024/08)
* [Schools Vs. Cellphones: How Educators Plan To Battle Addiction To The Devices](https://www.oregonlive.com/education/2024/08/schools-vs-cellphones-how-educators-plan-to-battle-addiction-to-the-devices.html)
* [No Resource Officers, More Counselors: How Seattle Hopes To Improve School Safety](https://www.kuow.org/stories/no-resource-officers-more-counselors-how-seattle-hopes-to-improve-school-safety)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

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

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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 things up. Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application. You must submit a 250-word essay. | 8/31 |
| [American Fire Sprinkler Association Second Chance Scholarship Contest](https://www.afsascholarship.org/) | Open to anyone who has graduated high school or equivalency 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 |
| [Beauty & Wellness Professionals Scholarship](https://www.beautyschoolsdirectory.com/cosmetology-school-scholarships) | ($2,500) This is for students currently enrolled or planning to enroll in an eligible program before the scholarship deadline. | 9/3 |
| [NAEHCY Scholarship Fund](https://naehcy.org/naehcy-scholarship-fund/) | ($5,000) To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria: \*Applicants must be under 23 as of September 3, 2024. \*Applicants must be actively pursuing post-secondary education or trade schools. \*Applicants must be eligible for McKinney-Vento assistance or have experienced Homelessness\* (while in school) within the last six years. | 9/3 |
| [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 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest - Winter Issue](http://www.justpoetry.org/submissions) | ($100-$500) - Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. | 9/30 |
| [Shout It Out Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/shout-it-out-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit an online response to the question: "If you could say one thing to the world at once, what would it be and why? | 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 |
| [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 |
| [Disney Dreamers Academy Applications.](https://www.disneydreamersacademy.com/be-a-dreamer/apply/) | (Academy) - Disney Dreamers Academy is a 4-day, power-packed event in which 100 select high school students, ages 13 to 19, are inspired, motivated, and prepared to dream big. | 10/31 |
| [Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship) | ($2,000) - In 250 words or less, 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 your best friend 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 |
| [Voice of Democracy Scholarship.](https://www.vfw.org/VOD/) | ($35,000) Voice of Democracy audio-essay program gives high school students the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first-place winner receives a $30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college, or vocational/technical school. | 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. | | |