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| Issue: December 16-20, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Customizable** [**Quarterly Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/node/1433)**.** These templates provide college/career readiness information for students by grade level (7-12). They are available in English and Spanish*. More translations will be coming soon!*

## 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.

## Optional Professional Development

* [**2025-26 Difficult FAFSA Scenarios E-Learning Course Available**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2F458rl1jp.r.us-east-1.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.ncan.org%252Fstore%252FListProducts.aspx%253Fcatid%3D797860%2F2%2F01000193d44d9362-e6e93b78-0ff5-49cc-9087-528172d9b260-000000%2FJdAAkdb-ydv62qspkO2M6CkqxCM%3D404&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Cd6dfb83db8c24ed9948208dd1e8b0e8d%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638700304777675180%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NlHpXoszUqcIPFHVdgKp12xlkGLHHSMrPPrN0iaYPew%3D&reserved=0). This NCAN course will help you support students with complex FAFSA situations with hints and tips about completing the form. Complete the trifecta of FAFSA 101, FAFSA 201, and Difficult FAFSA Scenarios, and you will be ready to take on any FAFSA situation. All e-learning courses are free for NCAN members.
* **Webinar:** [**College Financing 101: Tips on Loans, Scholarships and Financial Aid**](https://www.pnacac.org/professional-development/webinars). By PNACAC. Get essential tips to help students with financial aid in this 101 series designed for high school counselors. Open to PNACAC members only. PNACAC [membership](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foregongoestocollege.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D2f8d5fa6686219d36cc349dfd%26id%3D87d6881d45%26e%3Dc4902e16a9&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C28426aaba5a64cc7035808dd1a059218%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638695333422996310%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Okl7VT0L0MUyUE1MAQ5uuAk7iJKUQqbvqhabR4wxS6A%3D&reserved=0) is free for public secondary schools. Jan. 9, 9 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**How to Host a College and Career Day.**](https://site.act.org/act-ccrday-2025-webinar?utm_campaign=K12%20%7C%20FY24%20College%20and%20Career%20Readiness%20Day&utm_medium=email&_hsenc=p2ANqtz-9wVigndhBd2TiSWxb4JqI1r4lvil8hSoLKWeP3NvQ6Tfy65aWiIBox2vuArwaUZjzWl-_eVYpVQrGCUMm3EWr1AOPng3KMu0265Ufim8sZqDHYJoc&_hsmi=337227816&utm_content=337227816&utm_source=hs_email) By ACT. Jan. 16, 9 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Waitlists, Defers, and Holds: What to Do and What to Avoid.**](https://www.pnacac.org/professional-development/webinars) By PNACAC. Learn best practices and pitfalls to avoid in this 101 series designed for high school counselors. Open to PNACAC members only. PNACAC [membership](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foregongoestocollege.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D2f8d5fa6686219d36cc349dfd%26id%3D826877f5eb%26e%3Dc4902e16a9&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C28426aaba5a64cc7035808dd1a059218%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638695333423023498%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=Cok8HJ671DZnrXkhltnCQ40uvyJu2DmOdgwgL61mq9Y%3D&reserved=0) is free for public secondary schools. Feb. 13, 9 AM.
* [**WSCA Conference**](https://www.wscaconference.org/). Mar. 5-7. Seattle. The call for proposals is now open!
* **Virtual:** [**NCCEP GEAR UP Academy.**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/academy) Feb. 3-6. Reg is now open!
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 13–16, San Francisco. [Apply to present!](https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/0f5e9c32-85ce-490e-81d1-14a54a133ffa)

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Considering a Gap Year?**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/gap-year)  Here is what you need to know to help you make an informed decision and plan.
* [**Support For Those Who Support Our Students**](https://www.washingtonea.org/educators/secondary-traumatic-stress)**.** Secondary trauma can impact our work and home life as school staff, especially those of us who work closely with students. Find resources to help.
* [**So, You’ve Got a Diagnosis—Now What?**](https://wapave.org/so-youve-got-a-diagnosis-now-what)From WA PAVE. Understanding your disability, your rights, and how to succeed in self-advocacy and school. [Download the Navigating a New Diagnosis infographic.](https://wapave.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Navigating-a-New-Diagnosis-as-a-Teen.pdf)
* [**Multilingual FAFSA Support.**](https://www.spokaneschools.org/page/fafsa)To help our multilingual families, Spokane Community College and KSPS PBS partnered to create videos in English, Marshallese, Spanish, and Ukrainian with instructions on applying for financial aid.
* [**Turning Difficult Lessons Into Deeper Learning**](https://www.edutopia.org/article/deeper-learning-emerge-difficult-lessons). Pop quizzes, self-tests, and other active strategies are more effective for students than simply reviewing notes.
* [**What's Next for DACA Recipients With Gaby Pacheco**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OsP2HKdcqt4)**.** In this powerful episode with José Antonio Vargas and Gaby Pacheco, the realities of undocumented life and the fight for justice take center stage. From navigating systemic challenges to empowering immigrant communities, this podcast dives into the resilience, humanity, and determination that define the immigrant experience.

## In The News

* [5 Common FAFSA Mistakes To Avoid](https://studentblog.act.org/fafsa-mistakes-to-avoid)
* [Washington Guarantees Free In-State Tuition For Low-Income Students](https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/washington-guarantees-free-in-state-tuition-for-low-income-students/281-74eea6ac-b34f-47b8-b829-95ce75cf9308)
* [Boise State Closes DEI Centers](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/12/13/boise-state-closes-dei-centers)
* [School Boards Tied Up By Book Bans Face Harassment, Struggle To Address Other Issues](https://www.slj.com/story/School-Boards-Tied-Up-By-Book-Bans-face-harassment-Struggle-Address-Other-Issues)
* [When Parents Only Focus On College Admissions, Essential Skills Can Slip Through The Cracks](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/62734/when-parents-only-focus-on-college-admissions-essential-skills-can-slip-through-the-cracks)
* [Fewer Race-Based Scholarships And A New Culture Of Fear Follow The End Of Affirmative Action](https://hechingerreport.org/column-fewer-race-based-scholarships-and-a-new-culture-of-fear-follow-the-end-of-affirmative-action)
* [Building Parent-Teacher Relationships Can Be Hard. Positive Phone Calls Home Can Help.](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/63920/building-parent-teacher-relationships-can-be-hard-positive-phone-calls-home-can-help)
* [2024 In Review, From Your Point Of View](https://www.edutopia.org/article/2024-in-review-from-your-point-of-view)
* [Dei Bans Flourished In 2024. Politicians Aren’t Finished.](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/faculty-issues/diversity-equity/2024/12/16/how-battle-over-dei-shook-out-2024-and-whats-come)
* [Washington Will Start Automatically Guaranteeing Effectively Free Tuition At Public Colleges And Universities](https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/state-to-guarantee-college-aid-for-low-income-families/)
* [An Equity Model For Youth Mentoring](https://educationnorthwest.org/insights/equity-model-youth-mentoring)
* [Why Schools Need to Wake Up to the Threat of AI ‘Deepfakes’ and Bullying](https://www.edweek.org/technology/why-schools-need-to-wake-up-to-the-threat-of-ai-deepfakes-and-bullying/2024/12)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

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

* [Get Schooled’s Scholarship Finder](https://getschooled.com/scholarships/).Thisfree scholarship search database for students is safe and legit and will never sell or share their personal information.

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| **Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [Equitable Excellence Scholarship](https://equitable.com/foundation/equitable-excellence-scholarship) | $5,000 renewable scholarship for students who show potential by demonstrating leadership, determination, and resilience as critical enablers of their future success. | 12/18 |
| [NASA Student Art Contest](https://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/) | This year’s theme encourages students to recognize the relationship between art, science, and technology around them and discover new ways to connect the dots. NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, invites students in grades K-12 to participate in the 2024 NASA Langley Art Contest, using the theme “Connect the Dots.” The contest is open to all children who are residents of the United States and currently in grades K-12 | 12/31 |
| [Top Ten List Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "Create a Top Ten List of the top ten reasons you should get this scholarship." | 12/31 |
| [Unigo $10K Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship) | ($10,000) - Submit an online written response to the question: "Would you rather be smart, funny, or rich? Why?" (250 words or less) | 12/31 |
| [Mann Lake Beekeeping Scholarship](https://www.mannlakeltd.com/scholarship/) | Mann Lake’s scholarship is for college students who aspire to be outstanding and extraordinary. We are looking for academically excellent students pursuing a better education who are currently enrolled in or about to enroll in an apiology program, majoring in agriculture and environmental sciences or related studies. | 12/31 |
| [Stromberg’s Scholarship Program](https://www.strombergschickens.com/scholarship/) | The Stromberg’s Chicken scholarship provides a one-time reward of $1000 for tuition, books, computers, accommodation, or any education-related expense. There’s no GPA requirement and no application forms. | 12/31 |
| [American Fire Sprinkler Association High School Senior Scholarship Contest](https://www.afsascholarship.org/)  | Open to HS seniors. Citizenship/legal residency is required. A total of $20,000 is awarded. Ten (10) winners will receive a scholarship of $2,000 each. | 1/1 |
| [GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship](https://www.reaganfoundation.org/education/scholarship-programs/ge-reagan-foundation-scholarship-program/)  | For college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education. Through the generous support of GE, this national program annually awards numerous students $10,000 in renewable scholarships - up to $40,000 total - for tuition, school fees, books, supplies, and on-campus room and board | 1/4 |
| [Washington World Fellows Domestic Advocates](https://waworldfellows.org/) | Fellows will participate in our Domestic Program in Eastern Washington during the summer between their sophomore and junior years. This immersive experience includes studying Spanish history and language, cultural integration through living with Spanish peers and engaging in various academic and college preparation and cross-cultural exchange activities. Between their junior and senior years, fellows will engage in a local advocacy project and participate in our College boot camp. This boot camp offers crucial elements such as college application assistance, insightful college tours, and preparation for financial aid consideration. The fellows will also have access to leadership opportunities, including civic engagement activities, internship/externship experiences, and international student forums. | 1/6 |
| [FFA Scholarships](https://www.ffa.org/scholarships) | Over 1,000 scholarships with/ just one application available to FFA members. | 1/9 |
| [Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship Award](https://jackierobinson.org/scholarship/) | ($35,000) - The JRF scholarship awards outstanding high school graduates who plan to earn a baccalaureate from an accredited four-year college or university. Additional Scholars are given JRF fellowships to pursue opportunities to work and study abroad and for post-graduate education. | 1/9 |
| [GSBA Scholarship Fund](http://www.thegsba.org/scholarship-home) | ($8,000) - The GSBA Scholarship Fund awards educational scholarships to Washington State LGBTQIA+ and allied students who exhibit leadership potential, demonstrate strong academic abilities, and are actively involved in school and community organizations. | 1/10 |
| [Paid, Multi-Year Summer Fellowship For Minority Student- Emma L. Bowen Foundation](http://www.emmabowenfoundation.com/) | Minority HS seniors & first-year college students with a min. 3.0 GPA & an interest in media careers (business, creative, journalism, technology, or sales) are eligible to apply. During this multi-year internship, students in the program receive an hourly wage & matching scholarship. We recommend that students apply early in the application season to maximize consideration for opportunities.  | 1/10 |
| [Pride Foundation Scholarship](http://www.pridefoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/) | For current and future leaders in the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (LGBTQ), and straight ally community from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. Open to 1079 students. Applicants must pursue post-secondary education in the coming school year. This includes community college, four-year public or private college or university, certificate programs, vocational/technical/trade programs, law school, medical/dental/veterinary school, or graduate education.  | 1/10 |
| [Foot Locker Scholar Athletes](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarships/foot-locker-scholar-athletes) | ($20,000) - The Foot Locker Scholar Athletes program recognizes student-athletes who demonstrate academic ability and strong leadership skills in sports, school, and the community. Students participating in high school, intramural, or community-based sports and seeking an associate or bachelor's degree are welcome to apply. | 1/13 |
| [APIASF Scholarship Program](https://apiascholars.org/scholarships/) | ($2,500-$20,000) - APIA Scholars provides scholarships to underserved APIA students with a special focus on those who Live at or below the poverty level or are otherwise of low socioeconomic status; Are the first in their families to attend college; Are representative of the APIA community’s diversity (geographically and ethnically), especially those ethnicities that have been underrepresented on college campuses due to limited access and opportunity; and have placed a strong emphasis on community service, leadership, and solid academic achievement.  | 1/15 |
| [John Lennon Scholarship - BMI Foundation](https://bmifoundation.org/by-application/johnlennonaward) | ($20,000) - The John Lennon Scholarships are an annual competition open to student songwriters and composers of contemporary musical genres, including alternative, pop, rock, indie, electronica, R&B, and experimental. Three scholarships are presented annually for the best original songs submitted to the competition. | 1/15 |
| [The Neurodiversity Scholarship](https://thendalliance.org/scholarships/) | For those who identify as neurodivergent, including one or more challenges related to learning such as Dyslexia, ADHD, Processing Disorders, Autism, or similar learning disabilities.  | 1/15 |
| [Bezos Scholars Program](https://www.bezosscholars.org/apply) | Successful applicants are public high school juniors and staff members from their school who serve as educators and participate fully in the program. Successful applicants have a strong drive and commitment to their education and demonstrate maturity, curiosity, resilience, and leadership.  | 1/21 |
| [The UW DO-IT Scholars Program](http://www.washington.edu/doit/Programs/scholar.html) | DO-IT Scholars are Washington State high school students with disabilities planning to continue their education after graduation. Scholars prepare for their transition to college—which includes exploring careers, independence, self-advocacy, and leadership. It is open to high school sophomores or juniors. | 1/30 |
| [Mas Family Scholarship](http://jmcff.org/#apply) | ($32,000) - Applicants must be of Cuban descent and have min. 3.5 GPA, & be financially needy.  | 1/31 |
| [Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship](https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NROTC/Apply/) | Selected Navy ROTC Scholarship Program applicants are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process and receive full tuition, book stipend, educational fees, and other financial benefits at many of the country's leading colleges and universities. Upon graduation, midshipmen are commissioned as officers in the unrestricted line Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve. | 1/31 |
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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. |