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| Issue: February 3-7, 2025 |

## 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). *Now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Korean, Marshallese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian, & Vietnamese.*
* **Match Tip of the Week**: Many colleges will donate pennants or other college swag to your program upon request. The value of these donations can be submitted as a match on a Goods and Services form. The donor (college) must sign and document the value. Receipts are preferred, if available.

## FAFSA Updates and Resources

* [**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.
* [**Communicating with Students from Families with Mixed Immigration Statuses FAFSA**.](https://www.nasfaa.org/mixed_immigration_statuses_fafsa) The National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators released a guide to help mixed-immigration-status families understand if filing the FAFSA could increase their deportation risk.
* [**Undocumented Students/Mixed Status Families and FAFSA Messaging**](https://www.higheredimmigrationportal.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/FAFSA-Messaging-Template-2.pdf). NACAC, the Presidents’ Alliance on Immigration and Higher Education, and the National Immigration Law Center have developed guidance for supporting undocumented students and those from mixed-status families.

## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

* [**Bring AJAC To Your Classroom!**](https://www.ajactraining.org/programs/youth/ajac-classroom-presentation) From AJAC Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships. AJAC prefers in-class presentations over career fairs. See [AJAC Class Presentation Application](https://www.tfaforms.com/5136888)
* [**WA Council’s College Planning Day**](https://www.wa-council.org/2023/10/05/2021-college-planning-day-virtual-april-22-2021/)is a one-stop opportunity for HS juniors and undecided seniors to learn about WA’s higher education options. **View:** [**College Planning Day Bus Subsidy Request Link**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdocs.google.com%2Fforms%2Fd%2Fe%2F1FAIpQLSezkPe_jA6NQYY5Z6IccpB80MKbazfTvJn89NErHaFo0KV8xw%2Fviewform&data=05%7C02%7CBethK%40wsac.wa.gov%7C50f88cab1f7b4187947b08dd3bef097f%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638732621682198117%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C40000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=rLafHAmR6rO%2FWuYzTBRzLKwQ2SOdyBWsRqP5Ad1VwiI%3D&reserved=0)**.** Mar. 11 – Saint Martin’s, Mar. 12 – WSUV, Mar. 19 – Heritage University, Mar. 25 – WWU, Mar. 26 – UW Bothell, & Mar. 27 – UWT.
* [**Spring 2025 PNACAC College Fairs**](https://connect.pnacac.org/register/spring2025fairs)**.** Apr. 2 - Gonzaga University, Apr. 12 - Boise State University, Apr. 24 - Edmonds-Woodway HS, Apr. 26 - Seattle University, and Apr. 27- University of Portland.

## Optional Professional Development

* **Webinar:** [**Culturally Responsive Practices & Policies that Help Students Attend & Engage.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Wq6zS0vUTNmffUyWYkdfbA#/registration) Sui-Lan Ho’okano, the OSPI Office of Native Education, and the Learning Options department will share their experiences. Free Equity Clock Hours! Feb. 12, 10 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Waitlists, Defers, and Holds: What to Do and What to Avoid.**](https://www.pnacac.org/professional-development/webinars) 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.
* **Webinar:** [**Postsecondary Resources for Foster Care Students**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/zwGYwRLbQmeq_HTY3ErpWw#/registration). WSAC’s Passport to Careers’ Dawn Cypriano-McAferty will lead the review and answer any questions. This review will cover the various opportunities (e.g., grants, scholarships, and support programs) available to foster youth. This review especially benefits school-based staff working with foster youth on postsecondary education. Feb. 26, 10 AM.
* [**Apply for a Spring Learning Lab**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/learning-labs?mc_cid=3d1ce7a6cc&mc_eid=a2f060beda#csll)**.** NCCEP hosts Learning Labs for GEAR UP professionals. Learning Labs are small cohort learning experiences that combine virtual sessions with asynchronous online courses. Apps due by Feb. 28.
	+ [**College Success Learning Lab**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D27734b8155%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C6734797d8fb748faa3da08dd3aee1c0e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638731516529494723%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=FIpiTQRWYQdk6LQIE0mJu%2F%2BV%2FksFRlxpKkxtqPtVvj4%3D&reserved=0)**.** For those who support college students and offer one-on-one advising. Gain ready-to-use resources and strategies, brainstorm with peers, and connect with a national cohort.
	+ [**Coordinator Learning Lab**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3Db140282d3b%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C6734797d8fb748faa3da08dd3aee1c0e%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638731516529522800%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=aUgplTaiYFG2tFM3XhPPZRJq%2BraZIY4q8YC6TpU2rVQ%3D&reserved=0)**.** For those new to GEAR UP? Explore engagement strategies, discuss current and relevant topics for college access professionals, and collaborate with a national cohort of peers.
* [**WSCA Conference**](https://www.wscaconference.org/). Mar. 5-7. Seattle.
* [**Motivation Science and College Going**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1929638&group=)**.** Dr. Savitz-Romer will highlight how practitioners can help students connect their current efforts to long-term goals, from intrinsic motivation to external incentives. Attendees will gain tools to better inspire and sustain students’ drive for postsecondary success, even in the face of challenges. **This live webinar is free and open to the public, *but the recording will only be available to NCAN members. Mar. 26, 11 AM.***
* [**WA State Indian Education Association's 40th Annual Conference**](https://wsiea.org/2025-conference/)**.** Apr. 1-3, Spokane.
* [**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.
* [**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:** [**GEAR UP Brochure Template**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/gear-brochure-template)**.** Feel free to adapt to fit your needs.
* **New OSPI Guidance:** [**Protections for Immigrant Students**](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2025-01/protections-immigrant-students-washington-public-schools.pdf)**.** The guidance provides school districts with a roadmap of requirements related to student privacy, access to educational services, and immigration enforcement on school campuses.

* **[Kinship/Grandfamilies Toolkit for Schools](https://www.gksnetwork.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/GKSN-24-EducationToolkit-V7-DIGITAL.pdf).** Many foster youth live in kinship or grandparent placements. Recent child welfare laws have finally recognized the vital role these caregivers provide. However, they still face additional challenges regarding educational rights and responsibilities. School districts and schools also have challenges understanding the role kin and grandparents play in school decisions and involvement. To help, Generation United has created an excellent toolkit for K-12 School Professionals that provides five actions schools can take to better support the students and families in these placements.
* [**Tips for Using AI, From Grad Students and Professors**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.communications.gse.harvard.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D568b4448669bf67ec4e6bda24a9a2ab41c92475c0520120ac31723817268d60201842ebc365f2e4c856242f9ee163430f89043091a75ee8ef5fcadcf84dd0303&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C29a4ef9803144a68c4ee08dd45571ef3%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638742962665650769%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=fL27irh9bzArhS4NrBU%2FVTVI0AUnkLS0Zz3eCUMx8Oc%3D&reserved=0). A new guide shows how generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) tools can support creative, self-directed projects prioritizing student autonomy, critical thinking, and problem-solving. [Explore the resource.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.communications.gse.harvard.edu%2F%3Fqs%3D568b4448669bf67e3c994b8e89cfb350cdb41c3977cf93c084cdeb04f6f59daa246dc01da2aff11dfe4b55923525eec9e4010f705533297e59afda998d2e040b&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C29a4ef9803144a68c4ee08dd45571ef3%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638742962665664274%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=wgASfpZWlId7FkLQ2wq7xNmVrgSBvNfefnlS2DWTk14%3D&reserved=0)
* **New Fact Sheet:** [**Educating Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness.**](https://schoolhouseconnection.org/article/education-for-homeless-children-and-youth) SchoolHouse Connection is pleased to make an updated fact sheet available on the PreK-12 education of children and youth experiencing homelessness.

## In The News

* [WA Schools Will Not Share Student Information With Immigration Enforcement](https://www.knkx.org/government/2025-01-29/wa-schools-will-not-share-student-information-with-immigration-enforcement)
* [Did AI Kill The College Admission Essay?](https://edscoop.com/ai-college-admission-essay-casper/)
* [What's In Trump's New Executive Orders On Indoctrination And School Choice](https://www.edweek.org/policy-politics/whats-in-trumps-new-executive-orders-on-indoctrination-and-school-choice/2025/01)
* [Dozens Of Education Department Workers Are Put On Leave Over Trump’s Anti-DEI Order](https://www.seattletimes.com/nation-world/nation/dozens-of-education-department-workers-are-put-on-leave-over-trumps-anti-dei-order/)
* Title IX Sex Discrimination Rules Developed Under Betsy Devos Are Back
* [Campuses No Longer Off-Limits To ICE](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/politics-elections/2025/02/05/campuses-no-longer-limits-ice)
* [Three Tools To Help Teach About Black Historical Figures In A Modern Light](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/64931/three-tools-to-help-teach-about-black-historical-figures-in-a-modern-light)

## 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** |
| [HACER® National Scholarship](https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/community/hacer.html) | For HS seniors planning to attend a 2- or 4-year college or university. Must have at least one parent of Hispanic heritage, have a min. 3.0 GPA, and be a legal resident. | 2/6 |
| [WSECU Scholarship](https://wsecu.org/scholarships) | WSECU members of all ages are welcome to apply. $2,000 is awarded for two-year colleges and vocational schools. $3,000 is awarded for four-year undergraduate programs and graduate programs. | 2/10 |
| [The Christophers’ Poster Contest](https://www.christophers.org/highschoolpostercontest) | Open to 9-12 graders. Must create an original poster that interprets the theme "You Can Make a Difference" & illustrates the idea that one person can change the world for the better. $100-$1,000. | 2/13 |
| [Washington State PTA Scholarship](https://wastatepta.org/events-programs/scholarship-program/) | Washington State PTA offers four $2,500 scholarships to graduating seniors from WA public high schools with an active PTA starting college (two-year or four-year) in the fall. | 2/13 |
| [Princeton Summer Journalism Program](https://psjp.princeton.edu/about-program/apply) | Free residential journalism and college preparatory program for high-achieving current juniors from low-income backgrounds interested in journalism. All program expenses, including meals, housing, and transportation, are covered. | 2/15 |
| [Gordon A. Rich Memorial Scholarship](http://www.gordonrich.org/html/index.html) | ($12,500) - The recipients of GAR scholarships are exceptionally qualified high school students with demonstrated financial need whose parents or guardians have, or had, a career in the financial services industry. | 2/20 |
| [Vegetarian Resource Group Scholarship](http://www.vrg.org/student/scholar.htm) | For graduating U.S. high school students who have promoted veganism in their schools and/or communities. Vegetarians do not eat meat, fish, or fowl. Vegans are vegetarians who do not use other animal products such as dairy or eggs. One award of $10,000, six awards of $5,000, and additional runner-up prizes will be given.  | 2/20 |
| [Washington Opportunity Scholarship- Baccalaureate](https://waopportunityscholarship.org/applicants/baccalaureate/) | WSOS supports low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible high-demand STEM majors or health care. It encourages recipients to work in WA once they complete their degrees. | 2/26 |
| [Indian Health Services Scholarships](https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/apply/) | Scholarships are available for qualified American Indian and Alaska Native students who plan to enter or are pursuing degrees in the health profession. | 2/28 |
| [CORE's Que Llueva Café Scholarship](https://ca-core.org/scholarship/) | The “Que Llueva Café” Scholarship aims to support the dreams, hopes, and aspirations of college-bound undocumented students so that they can earn their college education and allow for all of their hard work and sacrifice to persevere. $500-1,000. | 3/1 |
| [Tall Clubs International Scholarship](https://tallclubfoundation.org/scholarship/scholarship/) | Up to $1,000 for tall students under 21 attending their first year of college the following fall. Request an application by March 1. | 3/1 |
| [USDA/1890 National Scholars Program](https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars) | Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition and room and board for the scholarship term. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. | 3/1 |
| [Sound Credit Union Scholarship](https://www.soundcu.com/community-impact/scholarships/) | $1,000 individual scholarships. Must be a graduating HS senior who plans to attend a 2- or 4-year college, w/ a min. 3.0 GPS, & be a member of Sound Credit Union on or before January 31, 2021. | 3/2 |
| [Microsoft DisAbility Scholarship](http://www.microsoft.com/en-us/diversity/programs/microsoftdisabilityscholarship.aspx) | Eight (8) $20,000 scholarships distributed over 4 years ($5,000 per year, renewable). Awards are renewable for up to three years or until a bachelor’s degree is earned, whichever occurs first, based on satisfactory academic performance, maintaining a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, full-time or half-time enrollment, and continued enrollment in the eligible major. | 3/13 |
| [Courage to Grow Scholarship](https://couragetogrowscholarship.com/) | ($500) - Please explain in 250 words or less why you believe that you should be awarded this scholarship. You must be a junior or senior high school or college student with a minimum GPA of 2.5 or better. U.S. citizens only, please. | 3/31 |
| [Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund](http://www.davisputter.org/apply/apply-for-scholarships/) | (Up to $15,000 per Year) - These need-based scholarships are awarded to students who can do academic work at the college or university level, are enrolled in a trade or technical program, and are active in the progressive movement. | 4/1 |
| [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 have done so within the past 12 months. Students need to work as individuals to lead their service work.  | 4/15 |
| [Incight Scholarship](https://www.incight.org/scholarship) | ($500-$2,500) - Incight awards 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. The INCIGHT Scholarship 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 High School & College Scholarships](https://www.seamar.org/scholarship-farmworker.html) | 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 |
| [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 her undergraduate career at the approved Washington college or university of her choice. For females 18 and older. | 4/17 |
| [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), up to 1,000 words each.  | 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 |
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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. |