WEEKLY BULLETIN

**January 15-19, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**HS seniors **left over $4 billion on the table** in Pell Grants last year. >>[Learn more.](https://www.ncan.org/news/662266/NCAN-Report-In-2023-High-School-Seniors-Left-Over-4-Billion-on-the-Table-in-Pell-Grants.htm) |
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# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* **Welcome!** Roxanne Encheff, WSAC GEAR UP’s new Fiscal and Administrative Specialist.
* **Registration Open!** [**Spring Learning Lab**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/learning-labs). NCCEP will host two Labs for GEAR UP professionals. Virtual and asynchronous online courses.*Learn more in a brief* [*webinar on Jan. 25*](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024/1/25/learning-labs)! Apply by Mar. 15.
	+ College Success Learning Lab. Supporting college students? If so, join for ready-to-use resources and strategies.
	+ Coordinator Learning Lab. New to GEAR UP? This Learning Lab is for you.
* **Registration Open!** [**2024 National GEAR UP Academy**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/academy) **(Virtual)** Join a national group of peers to explore ideas, re-energize your GU programming, and walk away with tools you can use. Feb. 12-15
* **FAFSA Updates:** Students and families can visit [**StudentAid.gov/fillingout**](https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out) for resources about completing the 2024–25 FAFSA form. See also: [**Updated Guidance for FAFSA Question about FRPL.**](https://www.ncan.org/news/662412/FSA-Releases-Updated-Guidance-for-FAFSA-Question-about-FreeReduced-Lunch.htm)
* **FYI:** [**Bridge to College Math and English Courses**](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2024-01/bulletin_001-24.pdf)**.** Registration will open in early Feb. on the OSPI web page.
* [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters)**.** Monthly newsletters for students by grade level. Pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! *Available in English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.*

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* [**NACAC Spring 2024 National College Fair**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**.** 2/18-Virtual, 3/24-Virtual, 4/21-Virtual.
* **Registration Open!** [**Students of Color Career Conference**](https://www.everettcc.edu/administration/equity-social-justice/diversity-and-equity-center/soccc)**.** This one-of-a-kind conference brings MS &HS students from across Western WA to network with professionals of color to discuss college and career readiness. Mar. 21 at Everett CC.
* [**PNACAC Spring College Fair**](https://www.pnacac.org/spring-college-fairs). 4/19-Spokane, 4/22-Seattle, 4/30-Portland.
* [**uAspire** **Virtual Financial Aid Help Events**](https://www.uaspire.org/FinAidEvents). Free virtual events to walk students and families. Topics include CCS profile, FAFSA Walkthrough, Next Steps Post-FAFSA, Financial Aid Offer Review, and Summer Financial Aid Steps.
* [**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

* **Webinar:** [**The 2024-2025 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9017013567801/WN_xdQY1ATnQtWdV4JiWiO9iw?emci=83a14b73-7b90-ee11-8925-002248223f36&emdi=6db2f92e-be92-ee11-8925-002248223f36&ceid=11625301#/registration). By SchoolHouse Connections. Jan. 16, 12:30.
* **Webinar:** [**Mid-Year CSCP Check-In: "Deliver" Component**](https://hatchingresults.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BRsdTWR-SKiZoG-S_st_QQ#/registration). By OSPI. Jan. 17, 9AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Unpacking the History of Privilege in Higher Ed & Cracking the Admissions Code to Selective Schools**](https://michiganpcc.org/upcoming-webinars/). By U of M GEAR UP. Jan. 18, 7 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**CareerOneStop Tools for Youth**](https://www.workforcegps.org/events/2023/11/14/15/15/CareerOneStop-Tools-for-Youth). Learn about GetMyFuture.org, a specialized website for youth and young adults that provides career and employment tools. Jan. 18, 10 AM.
* **Virtual:** [**National GEAR UP Academy**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024ngua). By NCCEP. Feb 12- 15.
* **Webinar:** [**Better FAFSA: One Month Out, What We Know Now**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1812919&group=). By NCAN. Free and open to all. Feb 14, 10 AM.
* [**2024 WSCA Conference**.](https://wscaconference.org/) Mar. 6-8, SeaTac.
* [**PNACAC Conference: Where It All Began**](https://www.pnacac.org/annual-conference)**.** May 22 - 24, Salem, OR.
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 21-24, Washington, DC.

# RESOURCES

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** **[Senior Year Binder System](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/senior-year-binder-system-advisors-guide-student-organizational-plan-college-admissions)**. This Advisor’s Guide shows you how to assemble the binder to help students stay organized in the admission and financial aid application process.
* [**Get Schooled’s Scholarship Finder**](https://getschooled.com/scholarships/)**.** Thisfree scholarship search database for students is safe, legit, and will never sell or share their personal information.
* **[Future Voters Program](https://www.sos.wa.gov/elections/voters/voter-eligibility-resources/future-voter-program)**. Did you know that in Washington state, 16- and 17-year-olds can enroll as Future Voters, ensuring automatic voter registration when they become eligible. Also, students turning 18 between the August Primary and the November General Election are eligible to vote in the Primary.
* [**Free COVID-19 Tests for School Districts**](https://www.ed.gov/coronavirus/testing-supply-program-dcl)**.** ED in partnership with HHS has launched the COVID-19 Testing Supply Program for LEAs. Districts can order OTC rapid antigen self-tests free of charge for their students, families, staff, and school community. LEAs should designate an official point of contact to be responsible for ordering test kits and managing their delivery and dissemination for the district. To participate, LEAs must register [https://protect-ows.hhs.gov/ASPR\_COVID\_DX](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fclick.everyaction.com%2Fk%2F77164889%2F449580594%2F792152812%3Fnvep%3Dew0KICAiVGVuYW50VXJpIjogIm5ncHZhbjovL3Zhbi9FQS9FQTAxNi8xLzk2NTIyIiwNCiAgIkRpc3RyaWJ1dGlvblVuaXF1ZUlkIjogImU4NmMxZGMyLTgzYjQtZWUxMS1iZWExLTAwMjI0ODIyMzdkYSIsDQogICJFbWFpbEFkZHJlc3MiOiAiYmV0aGtAd3NhYy53YS5nb3YiDQp9%26hmac%3DElp5xHNGDpmeFFibbds4rpt-IXrnhbopicDQ0UT78a0%3D%26emci%3D388127ec-5ab1-ee11-bea1-0022482237da%26emdi%3De86c1dc2-83b4-ee11-bea1-0022482237da%26ceid%3D11625301&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C00b710e5178748e3a87308dc16a7c407%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638410157033137123%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vb1o2zCkVWX3UcU1X9WUu1fbCu2HMy0HEs1CYc2dvSw%3D&reserved=0).
* [**College and Career Planning Checklist.**](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/11th-grade)From BigFuture. Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. What would you add to customize?

**IN THE NEWS**

* [Expert College Admission Advice](https://www.forbes.com/sites/brennanbarnard/2024/01/16/expert-college-admission-advice)
* [A Foster Youth’s Journey Towards Healing](https://imprintnews.org/youth-voice/a-foster-youths-journey-towards-healing/247032)
* [Helping Students With ‘What’s Next](https://readywa.org/HSBPSupportStudents)
* [Biden-Harris Administration To Shorten Path To Debt Cancellation For Some Save Borrowers](https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/biden-harris-administration-shorten-path-debt-cancellation-some-save-borrowers)
* [Washington Schools Chief Calls For Changes To Better Fund Special Education](https://kuow.org/stories/washington-schools-chief-calls-for-changes-to-better-fund-special-education)
* [‘It’s Practically Health Care’: WA Teens Urge Lawmakers To Require Narcan In Every High School](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/jan/11/its-practically-health-care-wa-teens-urge-lawmaker/)
* [A Record-Breaking Year: Superintendent Reykdal Provides Update On K–12 Education In Washington](https://medium.com/waospi/a-record-breaking-year-superintendent-reykdal-provides-update-on-k-12-education-in-washington-5c81182aa17c)
* [A Conversation (& Important Announcement) About Mentoring & Mental Health](https://www.evidencebasedmentoring.org/32474-2/)
* [Burst Pipes Force Closure Of Several Schools In Western Washington](https://www.king5.com/article/weather/king-snohomish-county-schools-closed-burst-pipes/281-a3190a40-33f6-4ec1-873c-334725ee7a90)
* [Nearly 30 Percent Of North Thurston Students Are Chronically Absent. What’s The Solution?](https://www.theolympian.com/news/local/education/article284048783.html)
* [Spokane Legislator Wants All Kids To Have Free School Meals](https://www.spokanepublicradio.org/regional-news/2024-01-14/spokane-legislator-wants-all-kids-to-have-free-school-meals)
* [Fifteen States Shut Out Food Aid For 8 Million Children](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2024/jan/12/fifteen-states-shut-out-food-aid-for-8-million-chi/)
* [Using Ai In The Classroom: Tips & Tricks From Two Teachers](https://www.edweek.org/technology/using-ai-in-the-classroom-tips-and-tricks-from-two-teachers/2024/01)
* [First In Family To Earn A College Degree, She Sets Out To Help Others](https://news.gcu.edu/gcu-news/first-in-family-to-earn-a-college-degree-she-sets-out-to-help-others)

**SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES**

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

* **[Scholarship Junkies’ Free Scholarship Bank](https://www.scholarshipjunkies.org/scholarship-search)**. Scholarship Junkies has launched their brand-new Scholarship Bank! This organization is a reputable and safe source to search for scholarships.
* [**Get Schooled Essay Review**](https://getschooled.com/college-review)**.** Get Schooled helps you with your essays for college applications and scholarships. Submit your personal statement, supplemental college application essays, and scholarship essays for feedback. They will provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.
* [**WSECU Scholarships**](https://wsecu.org/scholarships)**.** For members of all ages. $2,000 is awarded for two-year colleges and vocational schools. $3,000 is awarded for four-year undergraduate programs and graduate programs. Due Feb. 12.
* [**Common App Student Advisory Committee**](https://bit.ly/48leLnT)**.** For HS juniors and seniors and those in their first year of college. Due Mar. 1.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [Bezos Scholars Program](https://www.bezosscholars.org/apply) | For HS juniors. Successful applicants have a strong drive and commitment to their education and demonstrate maturity, curiosity, resilience, and leadership.  | 1/24 |
| [The Hamilton Award](https://www.hamiltonscholars.org/apply/) | For HS juniors for their academic, personal, and service achievements. This three-year, no-student-cost program helps students get into college, transition to college, succeed while in college, and transition to the post-college world. | 1/26 |
| [Truman D. Picard Scholarship for Native Students](http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/scholarships.html) | Dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources. | 1/26 |
| [The UW DO-IT Scholars Program](http://www.washington.edu/doit/Programs/scholar.html) | For WA State HS students with disabilities planning to continue their education after they graduate. Scholars prepare for their transition to college—which includes exploring careers, independence, self-advocacy, and leadership. Is open to high school sophomores or juniors. | 1/30 |
| [Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship](https://www.netc.navy.mil/Commands/Naval-Service-Training-Command/NROTC/Apply/) | 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 |
| [Naomi Winston Scholarship in Art](https://www.nsalwashington.org/the-winston-scholarships-in-voice-and-art/naomi-winston-scholarship-in-art/) | For visual artists, aged 16 to 22. Applicants must demonstrate exceptional talent and promise of future success. | 2/1 |
| [EngineerGirl Essay Contest](http://www.engineergirl.org/10209.aspx) | This essay contest is for K12 students – in grades 3-12. Must write an original essay on a given topic related to engineering.  | 2/1 |
| [John F. & Anna Lee Stacey Scholarship Fund for Art Education](http://www.nationalcowboymuseum.org/education/staceyfund/) | ($500-$5,000) - For students ages 18 -35, pursuing a profession in visual arts & be skilled & devoted to the classical or conservative tradition. | 2/1 |
| [AXA Achievement Scholarship](https://www.college-financial-aid-advice.com/axa-scholarship.html#com) | ($2,500-$25,000) - For HS seniors who plan to enroll in an accredited two- or four-year college or university for the upcoming school year. Must submit a detailed essay that describes one outstanding, non-academic achievement they have accomplished.  | 2/1 |
| [HACER® National Scholarship](https://www.mcdonalds.com/us/en-us/community/hacer/eligibility-and-requirements.html) | For HS seniors who plan to go to 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. | 2/5 |
| [CORE's Que Llueva Café Scholarship](https://ca-core.org/scholarship/) | For college-bound undocumented students, can earn their college education and allow for all of their hard work and sacrifice to persevere. $500-1,000. | 2/10 |
| [John Lennon Scholarship - BMI Foundation](https://bmifoundation.org/by-application/johnlennonaward) | ($20,000) – For student songwriters and composers of contemporary musical genres including alternative, pop, rock, indie, electronica, R&B, and experimental.  | 2/15 |
| [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 covered. | 2/15 |
| [Association of Computer Professionals in Education (ACPE) Scholarship](https://acpenw.org/scholarships/) | ($2,000) – For HS seniors who plan to study technology. Successful applicants have studied and used technology innovatively throughout high school and can demonstrate their work through a project. The project itself can take many forms, including but not limited to a website, app, video, podcast, webcast, etc., produced sometime during their high school years. | 2/16 |
| [The Christophers’ Poster Contest](https://www.christophers.org/poster-contest) | 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. | 2/16 |
| [Gordon A. Rich Memorial Scholarship](http://www.gordonrich.org/html/index.html) | ($12,500) – For HS 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) | Due to the generosity of an anonymous donor, The Vegetarian Resource Group each year will award $20,000 in college scholarship money to graduating U.S. high school students who have promoted vegetarianism in their schools and/or communities.  | 2/20 |
| [Indian Health Services Scholarships](https://www.ihs.gov/scholarship/apply/) | Scholarships for qualified American Indian and Alaska Native students who plan to enter or are pursuing degrees in the health profession. | 2/28 |
| [Washington Opportunity Scholarship- Baccalaureate](https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/students/applicants/baccalaureate/) | For low- and middle-income students pursuing eligible high-demand majors in STEM or health care and encourages recipients to work in WA once they complete their degrees. | 2/29 |
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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. |