



Washington Student Achievement Council

Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

Issue: **June 16-20, 2025**

Hiatus: This is our last bulletin for the 2024-2025 school year. Look for us in August!

WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

- **Extended Deadline:** [GEAR UP West Call for Proposals](#). Breakout session proposals **due by June 30**. Questions? Contact info@oregongearup.org.
- **Customizable** [Quarterly Family Newsletters](#). 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*.

Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

- **Fall 2025 NACAC College 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

- **ASCA Conference.** Jul. 12-15, Long Beach, CA.
- **NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference.** Jul. 13–16, San Francisco, CA.
- **Integrated MTSS Conference.** Jul. 30- Aug 1, Wenatchee.
- **Apply for a Fall Learning Lab.** These NCCEP courses are for small cohorts of GU professionals. Join a three-month session starting Sept. 8! Save your spot by Aug. 25.
- **NCAN National Conference.** Sept. 8-10, New Orleans, LA.
- **WCHSCR Fall Counselor Tour.** Sept. 8 (ECC), Sept. 9 (UWB), Sept. 10 (CPTC), Sept. 11 (CBC), Sept. 12 (EWU), Sept. 16 (Virtual).
- **GEAR UP West.** Oct. 26-28, Portland.

Resources

- **WAGU Featured Resource:** [A 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 for the Fall:** [12th Year Campaign](#). 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!
- **OtterBot.** OtterBot is a free texting service designed to help Washington students navigate financial aid for college and career education. Students can access OtterBot via text message 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Text "Hi Otter" to 360-928-7281.
- **SwiftStudent** is a free tool that helps students understand appeals and provides templates for writing a financial aid appeal letter. This tool does not share user data with third parties.

In The News

Need help crafting a GEAR UP story for local media? Explore [NCCEP's tools](#) and don't forget to [Share Your GEAR UP Good News](#).

- [Tiny WA District Thinks Outside the Box to Help Students Master Skills](#) (Features Elma School District)
- [2025 Graduation Speeches Give Inspiration through Activism and Humor](#)
- [Politics Drive College Choices for Nearly One-Third of Gen Z Students, New Survey Finds](#)
- [Report: Higher Ed's 'Re-Norming' with Tech](#)
- [How School Choice Policies Evolved from Supporting Black Students to Subsidizing Middle-Class Families](#)
- [Study: Four-Day School Week Hardly Improves Teacher Retention](#)
- [Immigration Raids Add to Absence Crisis for Schools](#)
- [TRIO Advocates Fearful after Several Grants Discontinued](#)

- [Should Colleges Share the Risk of Student Loan Debt? House Republicans Think So](#)
- [Fulbright Board Resigns over Political Interference](#)
- [ICE Deportations Leave Empty Seats at Graduation Ceremonies in WA](#)

Scholarships & Opportunities

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

- **Free and Safe: Get Schooled Essay Review.** Submit your personal statement, supplemental college application essays, and scholarship essays for feedback. They will provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.

Scholarship	Brief Description	Due
Navigate Your Future Scholarship	A \$2,500 scholarship is offered to a high school graduate continuing their education in the aviation industry.	6/27
Moving Mountains Scholarship	This scholarship awards \$1,000 to Hispanic/Latino students who share an essay about a meaningful achievement requiring hard work and perseverance. Open to high school juniors and seniors, college, and graduate students.	6/30
/Korean American Scholarship Foundation Western Regional Chapter	Scholarships for students of Korean heritage who will be full-time students in Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, or Washington.	6/30
Scholarship Poetry Contest - Fall Issue	Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or fewer. Up to \$500.	6/30
Do-Over Scholarship	(\$1,500) - In 250 words or fewer, submit a response to the question: "If you could get one 'do-over' in life, what would it be and why?"	6/30
Geoscience IDEA Scholarship (formerly AWG Minority Scholarship)	The scholarship provides up to \$5000 in awards annually, typically split between two or more undergraduate students, and matches them with AWG mentors to enhance their careers. It also includes a one-year, sponsored AWG student membership.	6/30
Flavor of the Month Scholarship	(\$1,500) -Summer and ice cream go hand-in-hand. July is National Ice Cream Month, and that's the inspiration behind this award. We think people are very similar to ice cream; some are nutty, others a little exotic, while some are very comforting. If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why?" (250 words or less)	7/31
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	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
QuestBridge National College Match	An online platform that helps outstanding low-income HS seniors gain admission and full 4-year scholarships to some of the nation's most selective colleges.	9/26
Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship	(\$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.	(\$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	(\$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	(\$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
U.S. Bank Scholarship Program	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.	(\$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	(\$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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