



Washington Student Achievement Council

Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

Issue: June 2-6, 2025

WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

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

FAFSA Updates and Resources

- **Financial Aid Events: [12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events](#).** Virtual and Spanish events available. Share with students and families.
- **Encourage OtterBot signup.** Help high school students and parents get assistance with our [chatbot](#).
- **[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.

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

- **[CiHS Webinar: Legislative and State Level Updates](#).** By COP and SBCTC. **Jun. 4, 11 AM.**
- **Webinar: [Wins, Challenges and Future Opportunities: Reflections on Implementing Comprehensive School Counseling Programs Through Substitute Senate Bill 5030](#).** By OSPI. Guest speaker Dr. Mandy Savitz-Romer. **Jun. 4, 11:30 AM.**
- **Discussion Lab: [GU in Middle School— Building Foundations for Long-Term Success](#).** By NCCEP. Jun. 12, 11 AM.
- **[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.
 - **College Advising Learning Lab:** Led in collaboration with Bottom Line, participants practice college advising strategies including identifying fit factors, making college lists, completing applications for college and financial aid, and deciding which college to attend.
 - **NEW! Onboarding Learning Lab:** Redesigned with input from GU Directors, this introductory experience covers the basics for anyone new to GU. Participants build a national network while learning about GU's history, administration, and regulations.
- **[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: [Student Alumni Webpage Template](#).** Recent high school graduates may still need support and guidance around college or career pathways. This template features language you can use for this webpage. Help alums explore potential pathways, remind them of available resources, and inform them about the financial aid process, among other relevant details. Promote and invite alumni to your school's financial aid filing events.
- **Available to order: [Career Guides](#).** These Workforce Board guides are free and ready to distribute to middle and high schools! Features a career quiz, information on hundreds of occupations, tips on how to write a resume and cover letter,

dos and don'ts for interviews, and a wide range of education and career-focused resources, including grants and scholarship information.

- [Helping Students Thrive: Meet the 2025 School Counselor of the Year Finalists](#). In this episode of I Hear You Say, hear from four exceptional finalists for the 2025 School Counselor of the Year award. From building stronger student relationships to pioneering new support strategies, this episode celebrates the vital role school counselors play in helping students succeed.
- [Colleges Still Accepting Applications](#). NACAC created the College Openings Update as a tool for counselors, parents, and others assisting students who have not yet completed the college admission process. The list of colleges is updated daily, so please check back periodically to see additional colleges still accepting applications.

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](#).

- [Title IX Federal Investigation Clashes With WA Gender Identity Laws](#)
- [Will AI Collapse The Career Ladder Before New Graduates Can Get On It?](#)
- [Pasco Students Show Off Their \\$525K Custom Home. It's The 25th Built By Kids](#)
- [Today's No-Hire, No-Fire Job Market Is A Major Hurdle For Recent College Grads](#)
- [So Much For Saving The Planet. Climate Careers, And Many Others, Evaporate For Class Of 2025](#)
- [Teens More Acutely Aware Of Social Media's Impact On Mental Health](#)
- [Students Don't Think Cellphones Distract Them From Learning STEM. Teachers Disagree](#)
- [Title I And IDEA Have Transformed Schools. What Comes Next?](#)
- [What RFK Jr.'s New COVID Shot Recommendations Could Mean For Students](#)
- [Community Colleges Fear Proposed Changes To Pell](#)
- [Many States Picked Diploma Pathways Over HS Exit Exams. Did Students Benefit?](#)
- [Trump's Education Budget Calls for Billions in Cuts, Major Policy Changes](#)
- [Where Are Your Blind Spots: How Schools Can Create a Sense of Belonging](#)

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 |
|--|--|------|
| <u>Stuck At Prom Scholarship Contest</u> | (\$10,000) - This is the coolest scholarship contest around! Students are challenged to create and wear their prom outfits made entirely from Duck Tape to win scholarship cash! | 6/4 |
| <u>Ted & Holly Rollins Scholarship</u> | High school seniors are invited to submit a 500-word essay sharing compelling stories about their lives, intended fields of study, career goals, and how they plan to make a positive impact. Scholarships of \$5,000 will be awarded. | 6/15 |
| <u>Horatio Alger Association Career & Technical Scholarship</u> | Up to \$2,500 for students to pursue a career or technical certificate/degree. | 6/16 |
| <u>Navigate Your Future Scholarship</u> | A \$2,500 scholarship is offered to a high school graduate continuing their education in the aviation industry. | 6/27 |
| <u>Korean American Scholarship Foundation Western Regional Chapter</u> | 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 |
| <u>Scholarship Poetry Contest - Fall Issue</u> | Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or fewer. Up to \$500. | 6/30 |
| <u>Do-Over Scholarship</u> | (\$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 |
| <u>Geoscience IDEA Scholarship (formerly AWG Minority Scholarship)</u> | 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 |
| <u>Flavor of the Month Scholarship</u> | (\$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 | 7/31 |

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| | 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) | |
| 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 |



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.

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