



Washington Student Achievement Council

Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

Issue: **June 9-13, 2025**

WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

- **Nominations are now open for College Bound Champions!** Do you know an educator or professional who has gone above and beyond to support students in the College Bound program? Submit a nomination **by Fri., Jun. 13.**
- **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.*

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 OfferBot 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

- **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: Graduate Handbook: Next Steps for First-Year Students.** This "Summer Melt" student guide contains information on critical next steps. It also covers resources and support, registration, commuter tips, common stages in the first year, strategies for students planning to transfer, and financial aid information.
- **Why Students Don't Ask for Help—and How to Change That.** These three simple shifts can help students realize that asking for help is an expectation in your class and boost their self-efficacy.
- **Key Resources for Career Counselors.** CareerOneStop provides valuable information and tools for career advisors who assist job seekers, career explorers, and students. Materials may be used in individual sessions, for classroom curriculum or workshops, in computer lab exercises, or for newsletters and other publications.

- [**Job Shadow Guide.**](#) A self-reflection tool for students participating in job shadows, as well as evaluations. Brought to you by Education Northwest and Oregon GEAR UP.
- [**Calculate Your Federal Student Loan Repayment Options with Loan Simulator.**](#) Loan Simulator helps you estimate monthly student loan payments and choose a loan repayment option that best meets your needs and goals. You can also use it to decide whether to consolidate your student loans.
- [**Questions To Ask During College Orientation.**](#) Having a list of prepared questions can help students make sure they get the most out of the time they spend on campus.

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](#).

- [Trump Administration Must Restore AmeriCorps Programs in 24 States, Judge Rules](#)
- [Judge Rules Colleges Can Pay Student Athletes Directly](#)
- [Some College, No Degree Population Grows by 2.1M](#)
- [Trump Budget Proposal Eliminates Homeless Education Funding](#)
- [The Science of Student Motivation](#)
- [Rising Number of College Grads Are Unemployed, New Research Shows](#)
- [WA Watch: Some Community College TRIO Grants Canceled](#)
- [Good News \(Mostly\) on Stop-Outs, Re-Enrollment](#)
- [Promoting Purpose to Reduce Stop-Outs](#)
- [How the Power of Regional Partnerships in Rural WA Is Helping Students' Postsecondary Aspirations Take Root](#)
- [From Superheroes to Taylor Swift: Using Students' Passions to Ignite Learning](#)
- [ED Chief Emphasizes Risk-Sharing, Workforce Pell](#)
- [What Today's New College Graduates Are Up Against](#)
- [Judge Puts Temporary Hold on Trump's Latest Ban on Harvard's Foreign Students](#)
- [Kalamazoo Learns Even Free Tuition Isn't Enough to Get Kids into College](#)
- [A Steady Stream of Support for Apprenticeships](#)
- [How HBCUs Are Thinking about Trump 2.0](#)
- [The Big, Beautiful Bill Is Bad News for Student Loans](#)
- [Educators Say Worst Fears Realized as High Schoolers Detained by ICE](#)

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
Ted & Holly Rollins Scholarship	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
Horatio Alger Association Career & Technical Scholarship	Up to \$2,500 for students to pursue a career or technical certificate/degree.	6/16
Navigate Your Future Scholarship	A \$2,500 scholarship is offered to a high school graduate continuing their education in the aviation industry.	6/27
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	7/31

	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



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