

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Funding Opportunities
- Student Recruitment & Outreach Events
- Optional Professional Development
- Resources
- News & Research
- Scholarships

Did You Know?

OfferBot for Parents has launched!

This free texting service helps parents guide their student into college or training after high school. >>[Learn more.](#)

WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

- **Required Upcoming Pro. Dev. Events:** See emailed guidance for details.
 - **March Webinars:** 3/8 & 3/22. Live webinar attendance is required for all WAGU-paid staff.
 - **Eastside Year 7 Planning Workshop** (Spokane) Apr. 18-19. Required for all WAGU-paid staff and at least one administrator.
 - **Westside Year 7 Planning Workshop** (Olympia) Apr. 25-26. Required for all WAGU-paid staff and at least one administrator.
- **Reminder: Work Plans & Budget Revisions** are due on **Mar. 31**. **NOTE:** Added and deleted activities must be submitted in a revision and require approval. May submit early.
- **Reminder: Senior Exit Survey.** This survey is essential to our 7th-year planning. The window will be **May 1- 19**. You are expected to administer the survey to **at least 90%** of your senior class. We recommend you administer the survey on a single day to all classes. For example, going to all English classes on a single day almost guarantees you will have a 90% participation rate. Plan now for administration. You'll receive the survey links at the April workshop. Questions? Ask [Marcie](#).
- **Download March: College Knowledge Family Newsletters.** Monthly family newsletters with college readiness information for students by grade level (7-12). They come pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! Available in *English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.*

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

- [Ellison Education Grants](#). For K-12 public school teachers in WA. Grants range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 (for use during the 2023-2024 school year). Applications must be submitted by Apr. 1.

STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

- **View Video Series:** [WAGU Career & Technical Programs](#) | [WAGU Campus Visits](#) | [WAGU Speaker Series](#)
- **Video:** [What is a Trade School](#). From Get Schooled. If you enjoy hands-on, experiential learning where you can see the results of your hard work, enrolling in a trade program after high school may be for you.
- **Webinar:** [Financial Aid Award Letters: For Students & Families](#). By College Success Foundation. **Mar. 7, 6 PM.**
- [NACAC Virtual College Fairs:](#) 3/19, 4/23
- **Webinar:** [Understanding Financial Aid Offers](#). Make sense of financial aid offers from colleges and learn how to use uAspire's College Cost Calculator to compare the total costs of different colleges. Mar. 14, 1 PM and Mar. 27, 9 AM.
- **Virtual Event:** [Tools 4 Success Conference](#). The free, two-day conference is focused on career and college readiness! For youth, young adults, and community members with a disability. Mar. 21 & Mar. 28. Sessions recorded for on-demand viewing.
- **Webinar:** [Financial Aid Award Letters: For Students & Families](#). By College Success Foundation. Apr. 5, 6 PM.
- [PNACAC College Fairs:](#) 4/19: Spokane, 4/22: Seattle, 4/30: Portland.

OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Open Lab:** [Revolutionizing Your College-Going Culture: Collective Impact](#). By NCCEP. Mar. 14, Noon.
- **Virtual Event:** [Tools 4 Success Conference](#). The free, two-day conference is focused on career and college readiness! For youth, young adults, and community members with a disability. Mar. 21 & Mar. 28. Sessions recorded for on-demand viewing.
- **Webinar:** [Supporting Student Access to Career Preparation and Apprenticeships](#). By WSAC, OSPI, L&I, and Clover Park Tech. Mar. 22, 9 AM.
- **2023 Rural Summit.** By Partners for Rural Impact & University of North Carolina. Charlotte, NC, Apr. 2-5.
- **Webinar:** [How Do We Improve the Workplace for Teachers?](#) By Harvard GSE. Apr. 5, Noon.
- **Virtual Event:** [NCAN Spring Training: Field a Full Team](#). Learn how everyone in K12 can support students' college and career plans. All "Field a Full Team" webinars are open and free to members and non-members alike! Apr. 17-21.
- [2023 SuperACAC Conference](#). Spokane, Apr. 17-19.
- [The Washington Passport Network Passport to Careers State Conference](#). SeaTac, May 23-24.
- [AVID Ignite](#). Live, facilitated virtual sessions. Dates in June thru August.

RESOURCES

- **WAGU Featured Resource:** [FAFSA/WASFA Opt-Out Form](#). Use with HS seniors after a good faith effort in financial aid education and application completion efforts. This act creates an opportunity to discuss post-high school pathways and plans, identify support needs, and perhaps dispel misconceptions. To support students who would like to take a gap year, we have created a [Student Alumni Webpage Template](#). Use and/or adapt either of these items to fit your needs.
- **Inform Students about the FAFSA:** [Use This Email Template](#). Direct outreach to unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness is crucial. The email template can be used by liaisons, service providers, and financial aid administrators to inform students experiencing homelessness that the FAFSA is now available, and specific steps to help them complete it.
- **FAFSA Simplification Act: Youth Experiencing Homelessness & Youth with Experience in Foster Care**. This act aims to remove many of the barriers faced by youth experiencing homelessness or with experience in foster care. Read a summary of the new provisions for homeless and foster youth that are now in effect.
- **Sample Form Letters to Determine the Independent Student Status of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth**. The McKinney-Vento Act requires school district liaisons to inform unaccompanied homeless youth of their status as independent students for financial aid and help them obtain verification of that status. To help implement this policy, SchoolHouse Connection has prepared a sample form letter to determine the independent student status of unaccompanied homeless youth.
- **Student/Family Messaging:** Getting into college just got easier. Colleges have made big changes to help Washington students access college and career training. WSAC's [Plan Your Future](#) page connects HS seniors with valuable information like test-optional admissions, guaranteed college admissions, and open-admission colleges.
- **Create a Budget**. From OR Goes to College. Help students estimate and track their income and expenses in college.
- **Financial Aid Appeal Request Template**. From SwiftStudent. Find a free and safe template to appeal aid offers.

IN THE NEWS

- [Florida's 'Don't Say Gay' Law Continues to Spur More Extreme Versions Nationwide](#)
- [Apprenticeship training connected with safer workplaces, fewer injuries](#)
- [DeSantis-appointed New College board abolishes diversity office](#)
- [Telehealth, suicide prevention, social media guardrails: NYC shares sweeping youth mental health plan](#)
- [CWU looks to capitalize on post-pandemic enrollment increases](#)
- [More teachers quitting than usual, driven by stress, politics, data shows](#)
- [Addressing Summer Melt Starts in the Spring](#)
- [Study Confirms 4 Years of Math Is Beneficial](#)
- [Report: Impact of the Pandemic on the Class of 2022](#)

SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

Video: [How to Effectively Find Scholarships](#). Looking for scholarships can feel overwhelming. But have no fear; in this video, we will share some tips on how to improve your search. Find more opportunities at: <https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/scholarships> and [our list of scholarship search engines and databases](#).

- **BigFuture Scholarships**. Earn entries in monthly drawings for scholarships by completing steps to plan for college.
- **Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE)**. For HS seniors and community & technical college students for outstanding performance in career and technical education (CTE) programs. Due Mar. 17.
- **Sub Pop Loser Scholarship**. \$18,000 in scholarships for OR & WA students interested in music and/or creative media and arts in some way. *Sub Pop's use of the word "loser" goes back to the foundation of the label and is meant as a celebration of unabashedly being ourselves....Due Mar. 21.
- **Foster Care to Success Scholarships**. Up to \$5,000 renewable scholarship (for up to 5 years), based on need and merit, for students in public or private foster care. Due Mar. 31.
- **Accepting Applications. The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program** is a national program for youth who qualify and are likely to age out of the foster care system. To meet the priority deadline, submit an application by Apr. 30.
- **Free Summer Camp: Neuroscience for Neurodiverse Learners (NNL) Summer Program**. DO-IT Center and Center for Neurotechnology at UW are recruiting high school sophomores, juniors, or seniors who are citizens and permanent residents of the United States and its possessions who identify as neurodiverse learners. Free 10-day hybrid summer camp. Aug. 7-18.

College Scholarship	Brief Description	Due
Truman D. Picard Scholarship for Native Students	Dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing higher education in Natural Resources.	3/10
Junior Duck Stamp Contest	(\$200-\$1,000) - For K-12 students. Submit an original piece of artwork depicting a North American waterfowl species.	3/15
Microsoft DisAbility Scholarship	(\$20,000) – For HS seniors with disabilities who plan to attend a vocational or academic college and target a career in the technology industry Renewable – annual award of \$5,000 for up to four consecutive years.	3/15
Louie Foundation Scholarship	\$100,000 in scholarships available, especially for students with w/strong academics & whose parents are in the military or veterans of the armed forces.	3/17
Nicholas A. Virgilio Memorial Haiku Competition	For 7-12 graders. You must submit up to 3 haiku poems. All haiku must be previously unpublished, original work, & not entered in any other contest or submitted elsewhere for publication. \$50.	3/21

Chin: Shui Kuen & Allen Chin Scholarship	For incoming freshman or current, full-time undergraduate at a four-year college or university. Student or parent currently/formerly employed at an Asian-owned or Asian cuisine restaurant. Any ethnic heritage. Community advocacy and social justice work on behalf of Asian American, immigrant, gay and lesbian, and other progressive causes.	3/24
LULAC National Scholarship Fund	For youth in underserved communities to help make the dream of college enrollment a reality.	3/31
Scholarship Poetry Contest - Summer Issue	Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to \$500.	3/31
National Youth Science Camp	(Camp) - This residential science education program is for young STEM enthusiasts the summer after graduating high school.	3/31
National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program	(\$3,000-\$12,000) - All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership.	3/31
Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund	(Up to \$15,000 per Year) - For people active in movements for social and economic justice. These need-based scholarships are awarded to students who can do academic work at the college or university level or are enrolled in a trade or technical program and who are active in the progressive movement.	4/1
American Fire Sprinkler Association High School Senior Scholarship Contest	Open to HS seniors. Citizenship/legal residency is required. A total of \$20,000 is awarded. Ten (10) winners will receive a scholarship of \$2,000 each.	4/1
National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program	Competitive scholarships to students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to careers in biomedical, behavioral, and social science health-related research. Must be accepted to an accredited 4-year institution. Up to \$20,000 per year. Renewable for 4 years.	4/3
National Peace Essay Contest for HS Students	Must write an essay related to their assigned topic. The winner of the contest receives a \$2,500 cash prize, an all-expense paid trip to D.C. to meet Dept. of State and USIP leadership, and a full tuition paid voyage with Semester at Sea upon the student's enrollment at an accredited university.	4/3
American Foreign Service Association National HS Essay Contest	For 9-12th graders. Must submit an essay related to Foreign Service. Winner receives \$2,500 a trip to D.C. to meet the Secretary of State, and full tuition for a Semester at Sea educational voyage.	4/3
WWIN Star Scholar (Formerly - Washington Women in Need Education Grant)	Each WWIN Star Scholar receives up to \$5,000 per academic year and up to \$20,000 over her undergraduate college career at the approved WA college or university of her choice. For females 18 and older.	4/13
Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes	(\$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. Student needs to be working as an individual to lead their service work.	4/15
Incight Scholarship	(\$500-\$2,500) - For students with disabilities who have demonstrated outstanding merit in giving back to the community and overcoming obstacles.	4/15
KMR Group Foundation	(\$1,000-\$3,500) - For seniors graduating from high schools in Southwest WA. Applicant must be currently enrolled or will be enrolled in Clark College, Lower Columbia College, or Mt. Hood Community College.	4/21
Washington Association of County Officials	(\$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 students in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical certification program.	4/30
All About Education Scholarship	(\$3,000) - In 250 words or less submit a response to the question: "How will a \$3,000 scholarship for education make a difference in your life?"	4/30
E-waste Scholarship	(\$1,000) - Complete the application form including a 140-character message about e-waste. 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 e-waste.	4/30



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.