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| Issue: March 24-28, 2025 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Now Hiring:** Do you know former students now at Grays Harbor College, Wenatchee Valley College, or Centralia College? WSAC is hiring part-time [GEAR UP Peer Mentors at those locations.](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/peer-mentor-position-description-2025-wagu-grad-services)
* **Customizable** [**Quarterly Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/node/1433). These templates provide college and career readiness information for students by grade level, ranging from 7 to 12. *Now available in Arabic, Chinese, English, Korean, Marshallese, Punjabi, Russian, Somali, Spanish, Ukrainian, & Vietnamese.*
* **Match Tip of the Week**: IT Staff as Match—You may count the hourly rate and benefits of IT staff (or other staff) when they set up and/or maintain any technology purchased by GU, as well as when they provide technical assistance and train GEAR UP staff. Any equipment or supplies that they provide are allowable as match.

## FAFSA Updates and Resources

* [**12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.**](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-events) Most events are virtual. Spanish events are available.

## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

* **[Spring 2025 PNACAC College Fairs](https://connect.pnacac.org/register/spring2025fairs).** Apr. 12 - Boise State University, Apr. 24 - Edmonds-Woodway HS, Apr. 26 - Seattle University, and Apr. 27- University of Portland.

## Optional Professional Development

* **Webinar:** [**Motivation Science and College Going**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1929638&group=)**.** Dr. Savitz-Romer will highlight how practitioners can help students connect their current efforts to long-term goals, from intrinsic motivation to external incentives. Attendees will gain tools to better inspire and sustain students’ drive for postsecondary success, even in the face of challenges. This live webinar is free and open to the public, *but the recording will only be available to NCAN members. Mar. 26, 11 AM.*
* **Webinar:** [**Know Your Rights Training**](https://sowa.my.salesforce-sites.com/sowaevents/event/home/knowyourrights20250401)**.** From School's Out WA**.** This interactive session is designed to address the unique challenges faced by individuals and professionals working with immigrant communities, providing the knowledge and tools needed to navigate legal matters with confidence. Apr. 1, 10 AM. [Read OSPI's Guidance on Protections for Immigrant Students in Washington’s K–12 Public Schools](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//ospi.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/2025-01/protections-immigrant-students-washington-public-schools.pdf/1/01000195a4bb9b85-782df47c-bbd6-4141-852c-5783ca329a43-000000/MgnNWfbfc7gUJhnADjfN1eWr300XNwdRr0cJsj1xr_w%3D396)
* [**WA State Indian Education Association's 40th Annual Conference**](https://wsiea.org/2025-conference/)**.** Apr. 1-3, Spokane.
* **Webinar:** [**The Final Stretch: From HS Graduation to College.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hiuQz5GoTLWX4iZ2Rtlrvg#/registration) By COP. Clock hours available. ([Flyer](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAOSPI/2025/03/24/file_attachments/3206865/HS%2520to%2520College%2520Transition%2520Webinar%2520Flyer.pdf/1/01000195cd816750-f57ababb-94b5-449e-bbcc-18aa020f52f1-000000/2yshWih2WL4mvt0dQnUgFjQwJwVt_EO_Qm5PNTEn_nA%3D398)) Apr. 9, 10:30 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Helping Teens Manage Depression: Practical Skills That Work**](https://www.familyaware.org/webinar/helping-teens-manage-depression-practical-skills-that-work/)**.** Apr. 29, 4 PM.
* **Webinar:** [**CiHS Advising and Guidance.**](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAOSPI/2025/02/26/file_attachments/3175442/CiHS%20Webinar%20Series%202025%20v2.pdf) By the COP & SBCTC. Apr. 30, 11 AM.
* [**2025 Washington Mental Health Summit**](https://www.wamhsummit.org/). This series brings together participants from the mental and behavioral healthcare community to drive innovation and improve systems. May 13.
* [**PNACAC Annual Conference**.](https://www.pnacac.org/annual-conference) May 21 - 23, Portland.
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 13–16, San Francisco. [Apply to present!](https://www.cvent.com/c/abstracts/0f5e9c32-85ce-490e-81d1-14a54a133ffa)

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**GEAR UP Aspirational Interview Template**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/gear-aspirational-interview-template)**.** Aspirational Interviews help GEAR UP advisors and graduation specialists gain a deeper understanding of students and allow them to reflect on their own identities.
* [**New Washington College Fair Resource**](https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/WAOSPI/2025/03/24/file_attachments/3206950/2025.03_Washington%20Council%20Flyer%20-%20College%20Fairs.pdf)**.** From WCHSCR. This new resource will support planning and calendaring events for the 2025-26 school year, including best practices and sample questions to ask college representatives.

* **[Free ACT Practice Resources](https://site.act.org/hubfs/Counselor%20Outreach%20Team%20Files/Free%20ACT%20Practice%20Resources%20Guide%20Final.pdf)**. A new resource is now available to help WA students, families, and educators prepare for the April 2025 ACT and beyond.
* [**Celebrate College Signing Day at Your School and Foster a Culture of College-Going Success**](https://www.collegesigningday.org/). College Signing Day celebrates your students’ choices to continue their education after high school, regardless of the path they choose. This toolkit streamlines the event-planning process with clear guidelines and templates to save time.
* [**Preparing to Make the Decision.**](https://www.ncan.org/news/634595/Preparing-to-Make-the-Decision.htm) NCAN proposes five tactics to help him combat the awkwardness and aggravation of the spring semester while assisting his students in making informed decisions.
* [**Make Your Decision Google Docs Worksheet.**](https://oregongoestocollege.org/resources/make-your-decision)From Oregon Goes To College Resource. Compare colleges and reflect on your preferences and needs before making a decision about where to attend college.

## In The News

* [WA Schools Chief Blasts 'Cruel Chaos' Of Executive Order To Eliminate The Department Of Education](https://www.kuow.org/stories/washington-state-schools-chief-chris-reykdal-blasts-cruel-chaos-president-donald-trump-executive-order-eliminate-education-department)
* [Trump Administration Withdraws ADA Guidance](https://www.disabilityscoop.com/2025/03/20/trump-administration-withdraws-ada-guidance/31368/)
* [Students Try Using AI To Write Scholarship Essays — With Little Luck](https://hechingerreport.org/students-try-using-ai-to-write-scholarship-essays-with-little-luck)
* [What To Know About The Future Of Special Education Without The Education Department](https://www.wbur.org/hereandnow/2025/03/24/special-education-doe-future)
* [Few Know That Washington Offers Free College Tuition](https://www.columbian.com/news/2025/mar/23/few-know-that-washington-offers-free-college-tuition)
* [Apprenticeships Are Bringing New Workers To Heritage Industries: Community Colleges Are Forming Partnerships To Train Employees For Logging, Oystering](https://hechingerreport.org/apprenticeships-are-bringing-new-workers-to-heritage-industries)
* [Early Reports Show Spring Enrollment Increases](https://www.ccdaily.com/2025/03/early-reports-show-spring-enrollment-increases/)
* [Portland Community College Launches Reimagined Eye Care Program](https://www.ccdaily.com/2025/03/portland-community-college-launches-reimagined-eye-care-program)
* [Most College Students Are Taking Online Classes, But They’re Paying Just As Much As In-Person Students](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Foregongoestocollege.us5.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3D2f8d5fa6686219d36cc349dfd%26id%3Df929e10530%26e%3Dc4902e16a9&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C873a822d4cff4a77c19008dd66ff1bbf%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638779968358993466%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C80000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=5BYzipxVsg7jwYNPYdy6gBKgzCZarlvP0BV9P%2B3CnhM%3D&reserved=0)
* [Undocumented Students Are Living In Fear On College Campuses. The Effects Of Campus Raids](https://edtrust.org/blog/undocumented-students-are-living-in-fear-on-college-campuses-the-effects-of-campus-raids)
* [What Might Happen If The Education Department Were Closed?](https://hechingerreport.org/what-might-happen-if-the-education-department-were-closed)
* [Education Department Faces Federal Lawsuit As Student Loan Crisis Deepens For Millions](https://www.diverseeducation.com/leadership-policy/article/15740304/education-department-faces-federal-lawsuit-as-student-loan-crisis-deepens-for-millions)
* [How The Education Department Cuts Could Hurt Low-Income And Rural Schools](https://www.npr.org/2025/03/21/nx-s1-5330917/trump-schools-education-department-cuts-low-income)
* [Trump’s Plan To Move Student Loans To SBA Raises Concerns](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2025/03/21/small-business-administration-take-over-student-loans)
* [TikTok Is Full Of ADHD Advice — Don't Trust It For A Diagnosis](https://www.npr.org/2025/03/24/nx-s1-5336303/adhd-symptoms-adult-tiktok)
* [The Struggling Sanctuary Campus Movement](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/safety/2025/03/24/struggling-sanctuary-campus-movement)
* [Moses Lake SD Suspends Protections For Trans Students](https://columbiabasinherald.com/news/2025/mar/24/mlsd-suspends-protections-for-trans-students/)
* [As Spokane-Area Schools Address Impacts And Deficiencies Caused By The Pandemic, Educators Are Still Figuring Out How To Reset Attendance Norms](https://www.inlander.com/news/as-spokane-area-schools-address-impacts-and-deficiencies-caused-by-the-pandemic-educators-are-still-figuring-out-how-to-reset-attendance-norm-29549318)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

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

* **Free and Safe:** [**Get Schooled Essay Review**](https://getschooled.com/college-review)**.** Submit your personal statement, supplemental college application essays, and scholarship essays for feedback. They will provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.

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| **Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [Courage to Grow Scholarship](https://couragetogrowscholarship.com/) | ($500) - Please explain in 250 words or less why you believe that you should be awarded this scholarship. You must be a junior or senior in high school or college with a minimum GPA of 2.5 or higher. U.S. citizens only, please. | 3/31 |
| [Getlin's Corner Scholarship](https://getlinscorner.org/apply).  | $1,500 to $7,500 scholarships for children of enlisted Marines or Navy Corpsmen who have served in Marine units. | 3/31 |
| [Houzz Scholarships](https://www.houzz.com/scholarships) | $2,500 scholarships for students 17 years of age or older currently enrolled or planning to enroll in interior design, architecture, landscape architecture, or architectural engineering programs in the U.S. | 3/31 |
| [Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund](http://www.davisputter.org/apply/apply-for-scholarships/) | (Up to $15,000 per Year) These need-based scholarships are awarded to students who can perform academic work at the college or university level, are enrolled in a trade or technical program, and are actively involved in the progressive movement. | 4/1 |
| [10 Words or Less Scholarship](https://www.studentscholarships.org/easy.php#sthash.2vdhoRcz.dpbs) | ($500) - In 10 words or less, say why you deserve the scholarship. | 4/15 |
| [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](http://www.barronprize.org/) | ($10,000) - Honoring outstanding young leaders (ages 8-18) currently working on an inspiring service project or who have done so within the past 12 months. Students need to work independently to lead their service projects.  | 4/15 |
| [Incight Scholarship](https://www.incight.org/scholarship) | ($500-$2,500) - Up to one hundred scholarships to students with disabilities who have demonstrated outstanding merit in giving back to the community and overcoming obstacles to pursue higher education. These scholarships range in value from $500 to $2,500. It is only open to students who are residents of Oregon, Washington, or California. | 4/15 |
| [LEAP Rise Above (aka LEAP1%) Scholarship Fund](https://seamar.org/scholarship-leap1.html) | The Latino/a Educational Achievement Project Scholarship Fund provides financial support for students who demonstrate a history of advocacy, responsibility, accountability, and perseverance, are go-getters, and have shown or have a strong potential to contribute to their community. | 4/15 |
| [Sea Mar Farmworker High School & College Scholarships](https://www.seamar.org/scholarship-farmworker.html) | For those who currently work or have worked in agriculture, or whose parent or legal guardian is or has worked as a farm worker. They should demonstrate a commitment to their education, exhibit leadership skills, show concern for their community, and show financial need due to individual or family hardships. | 4/15 |
| [Washington Opportunity Scholarship-Career & Tech (CTS)](https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/students/applicants/) | The Career and Technical Scholarship (CTS) supports Washington students on their path to high-demand careers in the trades, STEM fields, and healthcare. To be eligible, Scholars must enroll in an approved program, such as welding, manufacturing, or IT, at one of Washington’s 34 community and technical colleges. Scholars are eligible to receive up to $1,500 each quarter for the duration of their associate degree, certificate, or apprenticeship program. These scholarship funds are flexible and can be used to cover tuition, fees, and other expenses associated with attendance, such as housing, transportation, food, and more. Scholars who intend to earn their bachelor's degree after the completion of their program are not eligible for CTS and are instead encouraged to review the Baccalaureate Scholarship. | 4/15 |
| [WWIN Star Scholar (Formerly Washington Women in Need Education Grant)](https://wwin.org/star-scholars/) | Each WWIN Star Scholar receives up to $5,000 per academic year and up to $20,000 over their undergraduate career at an approved Washington college or university of their choice. For females 18 and older. | 4/17 |
| [A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship](http://www.aises.org/students/scholarships) | ($1,000) - This scholarship is awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian AISES members pursuing degrees in the sciences, engineering, medicine, natural resources, mathematics, and technology. Students are required to submit three essays (prompts provided), each of which is up to 1,000 words in length.  | 4/30 |
| [Washington Association of County Officials](http://www.countyofficials.org/247/How-to-Apply) | ($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, associate, or vocational/technical certification program. | 4/30 |
| [The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program](https://links-1.govdelivery.com/CL0/https%3A//www.dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/AP_0006.pdf/2/01000195811beadb-ddd0deda-3392-4845-87db-dae937ecd853-000000/V_AUn5RXO2wuAsqr1bbCwTyxzJe2QAjU_HaSV9ezJ2w%3D395) | For foster youth/alums. Provides financial assistance to eligible youth, up to $5,000 per academic year. Students must apply for FAFSA and receive the Pell Grant. High school students taking dual-credit classes can receive up to $2,000 per academic year. They must register for at least six credits and one 100-level class or higher each quarter. To learn more about the program, eligibility, and the application process for the 2025–2026 school year, please visit the ETV webpage or email ETVWash@dcyf.wa.gov with any questions. To meet the priority deadline, you must apply by April. 30, 2025. All applications received after April 30 will be awarded on a funds-available basis. | 4/30 |
| [AISES Scholarships: Scholarships for Native Students in STEM Fields](https://www.aises.org/scholarships/intel-growing-legacy-scholarship-2022-2023) | Multiple Scholarships - See Site for Details. Award Amounts vary: Must be a current AISES member (membership is free for students). Must be in a STEM field and be a full-time student. Must be an enrolled citizen or a descendant of an enrolled citizen of a federal or state-recognized American Indian Tribe or Alaska Native Village; or Native Hawaiian or descendant from a Native Hawaiian; or Pacific Islander or descendant from Pacific Islander; or an Indigenous person of Canada. Enrollment documents and/or a copy of birth certificate(s) showing descendancy from an enrolled citizen, Indigenous group of Canada, Native Hawaiian, or Pacific Islander are acceptable. Applicants may also provide a copy of their Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood or Certificate of Degree of Alaska Native Blood (CDIB) card. Please note that AISES may not always offer scholarships to non-U.S. citizens. | 4/30 |
| [All About Education Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/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 |
| [Jack Kent Cooke Young Scholars Program](http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/young-scholars/) | The Cooke Young Scholars Program is a selective five-year, pre-college scholarship for high-performing 7th-grade students with financial need. It provides comprehensive academic and college advising as well as financial support for school, Cooke-sponsored summer programs, internships, and other learning enrichment opportunities. | 4/30 |
| [E-waste Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/ewaste-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 essay of 500 to 1,000 words on the topic of e-waste. | 4/30 |
| [A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship](http://www.aises.org/students/scholarships) | ($1,000) - This scholarship is awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian AISES members pursuing degrees in the sciences, engineering, medicine, natural resources, math & technology. Students are required to submit three essays (prompts provided), each of which is up to 1,000 words in length.  | 4/30 |
| [Washington Association of County Officials](http://www.countyofficials.org/247/How-to-Apply) | ($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 |
| [The Paradigm Challenge](http://www.projectparadigm.org/) | ($200 - $100,000) The Paradigm Challenge is an annual competition that invites students aged 4 to 18 from around the world to utilize kindness, creativity, and collaboration in solving real-life problems and making a positive difference in the world. | 5/1 |
| [STEM Stars Actuarial Scholarship Program](https://www.actuarialfoundation.org/scholarships/) | $20,000 (distributed over four years at $5,000 annually) The Actuarial Diversity Scholarship Has Merged With STEM Stars. The STEM Stars Actuarial Scholars Program was established to promote diversity in the actuarial profession. | 5/7 |
| [Puget Sound Scholarships (PRSA): Horace and Susie Revels Cayton Scholarship](https://www.prsafoundation.org/scholarships-awards/prsa-puget-sound-scholarships/) | Award: $4,000 - This scholarship was established in 1992 in memory of Horace and Susie Revels Cayton. At the beginning of the 20th century, the Caytons were editors of a popular political newspaper, The Seattle Republican. Later in life, after publishing Cayton's Weekly, the couple turned their publishing expertise into a business and were likely Seattle's first Black public relations practitioners. Each year, the Chapter seeks to recognize a student from a systemically underrepresented racial or ethnic background attending a school in Washington State who demonstrates academic achievement and a desire to pursue a career in public relations. | 5/29 |
| [Puget Sound Scholarships (PRSA): Sally Heet Memorial Scholarship](https://www.prsafoundation.org/scholarships-awards/) | Award: $4,000 - The Sally Heet Memorial Scholarship was established in 1986 in memory of a former member and good friend of Puget Sound PRSA. Sally Heet was a longtime Seattle-area PR practitioner and graduate of the University of Washington School of Communications. At the time of her death, April 16, 1986, she was working in Washington, D.C., as press secretary to U.S. Sen. Dan Evans. Those who knew her referred to her as self-possessed, confident, and professional. She was the victim of a senseless act of violence at her residence in D.C. This annual award is presented to an outstanding public relations student from a college or university in Washington State. | 5/29 |
| [Ann Gallagher Memorial Scholarship](https://www.wabuildingtrades.org/scholarship.html) | ($1,000) This scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors whose parent or guardian is a member of an affiliated union. | 5/30 |
| [Humane Education Network: A Voice for Animals HS Essay Contest](http://www.hennet.org/contest.php) | For HS students (ages 14-19). $150-$650. Rules & requirements may vary from year to year. For 2025, a special topic category, "Protecting Marine Life from Human Impact," is available, which can be applied across all eligible age groups and submission types. This option is in addition to the standard categories: Companion Animals, Farm Animals, Wildlife on Land, and Wildlife in the Oceans. | 5/31 |
| [Jayme Biendl Working Womxn's Scholarship](https://www.teamsters117.org/biendl) | Teamsters Local 117 has established a new scholarship fund intended to support working Teamster women and their dependents. The Jayme Biendl Working Womxn's scholarship was established in memory of Officer Jayme Biendl of the Monroe Correctional Complex, who was killed in the line of duty in 2011.  | 5/31 |
| [American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship](http://collegefund.org/student-resources/scholarships/scholarship-programs/) | Full Circle Scholarship: The American Indian College Fund supports American Indian and Alaska Native college students seeking technical, undergraduate, and graduate degrees at tribal colleges and other nonprofit, accredited schools. Any Native American U.S. citizen who is a member or descendant of a state or federally recognized tribe with at least a 2.0 grade point average and enrolled as a full-time student can apply for a scholarship. | 5/31 |
| [College is Power Scholarship](http://www.collegeispower.com/scholarship.cfm) | ($1,000) A scholarship to help you pay for college! The "College Is Power" scholarship is open to students age 17 and older who are currently in college or plan to start college within the next 12 months. Use the scholarship to pay for tuition, books, room and board, computers, or anything else related to your education! | 5/31 |
| [Fifth Month Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "May is the fifth month of the year. Write a letter to the number five explaining why five is important. Be serious or be funny. Either way, here's a high five to you for being original." Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application. | 5/31 |
| [We the Future Contest](http://constitutingamerica.org/downloads.php) | Open to K-12 students, college students, law school students, graduate school students, adults 25 years of age and older, and seniors 65 years of age and older. Each age group has different requirements, so applicants are advised to visit the website for detailed information. The amount varies. | 5/31 |
| [UW Young Executives of Color Program](http://foster.uw.edu/academics/degree-programs/undergraduate-programs/diversity-services/young-executives-of-color-yeoc/) | YEOC is a nine-month college pipeline program hosted by the University of Washington Foster School of Business. The program currently serves 170 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 73 schools in the state of Washington. Students attend sessions on the UW campus one Saturday every month for college preparation, business lectures, professional development, and powerful mentorship. YEOC is a FREE nine-month program. The only cost to students is transportation to the University of Washington, Seattle. | 5/31 |
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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. |