



Washington Student Achievement Council

Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

Issue: **May 12-16, 2025**

WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

- **Match Tip of the Week:** When filling out the Match Contribution of Goods and Services form, provide clear descriptions of contributions, such as “Tutored in science class” or “Provided childcare at family orientation.” Vague descriptions will be returned and negatively impact the match summary form. To fix this, correct the form, initial the changes, and return it to WSAC.
- **Open! [GEAR UP West Call for Proposals](#).** Breakout session proposals due by May 31. 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

- **[How to Answer FAFSA Questions About Homelessness](#).** This resource will help you navigate answering the questions about homelessness and how to request an unaccompanied homeless youth determination.
- **Financial Aid Events: [12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events](#).** Virtual and Spanish events available. Share with students and families.
- **Request event support from WCAN.** Contact us directly or email info@wcan.org for financial aid or CBS event inquiries.
- **Encourage OfferBot signup.** Help high school students and parents get assistance with our [chatbot](#).

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

- **[Grad Equity Webinar: Teacher Strategies for Supporting Mental Health in the Classroom](#).** By OSPI. **May 14, 10 AM.**
- **[PNACAC Annual Conference](#).** May 21 - 23, Portland.
- **GEAR UP Discussion Lab: [Including Families in Summer Programs](#).** By NCCEP. May 22, 11 AM.
- **[CiHS Webinar: Legislative and State Level Updates](#).** By COP and SBCTC. Jun. 4, 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.
- **[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. [Call for Proposals now open!](#)

Resources

- **WAGU Featured Resource: [A Family Guide: Supporting Your Child After High School](#).** This document aims to support families as their child transitions to college, available in *Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese*.
- **[Free 988 Suicide Prevention Posters](#).** Order a Hard copy from OSPI by contacting nic.reed@k12.wa.us.
- **[Best Practices: The Power of Youth Co-design: “Nothing About Us Without Us.”](#)** Youth co-design is a process that involves sharing the development of a program or a project with the students who will be impacted by it.
- **[4 Classroom Design Tactics to Motivate Students](#).** Teachers can make subtle adjustments to their classroom design to enhance engagement, spark curiosity, and celebrate student success.

- [Transitioning into Adulthood](#). By Harvard EdCast. Every generation talks about how much harder they had it coming of age than the current generation. And they see themselves as having it together, being more responsible, not needing as much help. And that's a little revisionist history.

In The News

- [2025 College Hopes & Worries: Stress, Debt, & the Value of Higher Education](#)
- [New WA education budget brings wins and disappointments](#)
- [The future of student loan repayment, explained](#)
- [Study: 90% of Recent College Graduates Report Positive Experience Despite Pandemic Challenges](#)
- [Congress Could Make Paying for College Even More Complicated](#)
- [Four Ways Trump's Budget Proposal Slashes Public School Funding](#)
- [Trump's Massive Deportation Database Puts Students at Risk, Advocates Warn](#)
- [Do transgender student athletics fall under DOGE Subcommittee jurisdiction?](#)
- [Are You Keeping Up With Trump's Big Changes to K-12 Funding? Take This Weekly Quiz](#)
- [As Prices Go Up and Student Needs Rise, Teachers Are Filling in the Gaps](#)

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
NASA Internship Program	This paid internship program offers high school and college students the chance to gain hands-on experience working with NASA scientists, engineers, and professionals. Opportunities are available both full- and part-time. Applicants must be 16 or older and have a minimum 2.9 GPA.	5/16
Cameron Impact Scholarship	This opportunity offers four-year, full-tuition scholarships to high school juniors who demonstrate leadership, a strong work ethic, extracurricular excellence, and active community involvement. Recipients may choose their school and field of study.	5/21
The GEAR UP & TRIO Scholarship	NCCEP partner, The Scholar Budget, is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to help GEAR UP students cover the cost of their postsecondary education. Current high school seniors and undergraduate students with a minimum GPA of 2.5 are invited to apply.	5/23
Puget Sound Scholarships (PRSA): Horace and Susie Revels Cayton Scholarship	Award: \$4,000 - Established in 1992 in memory of Horace and Susie Revels Cayton, former editors of The Seattle Republican and likely Seattle's first Black public relations practitioners. This scholarship recognizes a student from a systemically underrepresented racial or ethnic background in Washington State who demonstrates academic achievement and a desire to pursue a career in public relations.	5/29
PRSA: Sally Heet Memorial Scholarship	Award: \$4,000 - This annual award is presented to an outstanding public relations student from a college or university in WA.	5/29
Get Out and Get Active Grant	The Anxiety & Depression Initiative (ADI) is offering grants of up to \$10,000 for projects that promote mental health through physical activity. Eligible applicants include K-12 schools, colleges, government agencies, and nonprofits. Funding supports education, direct services, and research using movement-based approaches.	5/30
Islamic Society of North America Scholarships	Several scholarships are open to Muslim students pursuing higher education.	5/30
Ann Gallagher Memorial Scholarship	(\$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	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	Teamsters Local 117 has established a new scholarship fund to support working Teamster women and their dependents. The Jayme Biendl Working Womxn's	5/31

	scholarship was established in memory of Officer Jayme Biendl of the Monroe Correctional Complex, who was killed in the line of duty in 2011.	
American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship	For 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, has at least a 2.0 grade point average, and is enrolled full-time can apply for a scholarship.	5/31
College is Power Scholarship	(\$1,000) Open to students age 17 and older who are currently in college or plan to start college within the next 12 months.	5/31
Fifth Month Scholarship	(\$1,500) - In 250 words or fewer, 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 for being original." Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application.	5/31
We the Future Contest	Open to K-12 students, college students, law school students, graduate students, adults 25 years and older, and seniors 65 years 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	YEOC is a nine-month college pipeline program hosted by the UW Foster School of Business. The program serves 170 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 73 schools in 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 9-month program. The only cost is transportation.	5/31
ACF Visionary Scholarship	A \$5,000 scholarship is available for students who complete an essay on why college is important to them. The scholarship is open to all high school students.	6/1
Native Forward Scholars (was Wells Fargo Scholarship)	This is the application for all Native Forward Scholars Fund scholarship opportunities for the 2025-2026 academic year. By submitting this application, you will be considered for all academic year scholarships for which you are eligible.	6/1
SchoolHouse Connection Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program	Provides scholarships to youth who have experienced homelessness to ensure their completion of a postsecondary education program. Assists youth with financial aid processes, mental health advocacy and referrals, professional legal advocacy and referrals, and assistance locating and establishing local contacts for general support and services. \$2,000 scholarship award (\$1,000 for the 1st year, \$1,000 for the 2nd year of college). Undocumented students who meet these criteria are eligible.	6/2
Stuck At Prom Scholarship Contest	(\$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
Navigate Your Future Scholarship	A \$2,500 scholarship is offered to a high school graduate continuing their education in the aviation industry.	6/27
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



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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