



Washington Student Achievement Council

## Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

Issue: May 5-9, 2025

### WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

- **Did You Know?** National Teacher Day is on May 6, and Teacher Appreciation Week occurs from May 5 to 9 this year. Let's celebrate the educators who make a difference in students' lives.
- **Open! GEAR UP West Call for Proposals.** Breakout session proposals due by May 31. Questions? Contact [info@oregongearup.org](mailto: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*.
- **Summer Running Start Update.** Read the [most recent Dual Credit update](#) for more information.
- **OSPI-WSAC Webinar: Legislative Updates.** By OSPI, SBE, and SBCTC. Get high-level updates related to career & college readiness. **May 7, 9-10:30 AM**
- **Match Tip of the Week:** There is a matching value to job shadows. Is GU helping to establish a job shadow program? Are students job shadowing to enhance their career exploration activities? The job site donates time to provide this service; therefore, their staff time can be documented on a Goods and Services match form. Who provides transportation? If GU does not pay for it, you may document the volunteer's time and the current mileage reimbursement rate as match.

### FAFSA Updates and Resources

- [Letter from Governor Ferguson to the Class of 2025 encouraging them to apply for financial aid.](#)
- **Financial Aid Events: 12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.** Virtual and Spanish events available. Share with students and families.
- **To plan a virtual event,** use WSAC's [12th Year Campaign Toolkit](#) and [register your event](#).
- **Review WSAC's 2024-25 Financial Aid 101** (English: [Recording](#) | [Slides](#); Spanish: [Recording](#) | [Slides](#)).
- **Request event support from WCAN.** Contact directly or email [info@wcan.org](mailto:info@wcan.org) for financial aid or CBS events.
- **Encourage OtterBot signup.** Help HS students & parents get help with our [chatbot](#).

### Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

- **Fall 2025 NACAC College Fairs.** Virtual and in-person events. 9/14-Virtual, 10/9- Performing and Visual Arts Seattle, 10/12-10/13- PDX, 10/15- Spokane, 10/17-10/18- Seattle, 10/19- Virtual, and 11/9- Virtual.

### Optional Professional Development

- **2025 Washington Mental Health Summit.** This series brings together participants from the mental and behavioral healthcare community to drive innovation and improve systems. May 13.
- **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.** 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.
- **GEAR UP West.** Oct. 26-28, Portland. [Call for Proposals now open!](#)

### Resources

- **WAGU Featured Resource: Graduate Handbook: Next Steps for First-Year Students.** Features critical next steps.
- **Stopping Summer Melt Starts in the Spring.** Summer Melt 101, resources, and Intervention Ideas from NCAN.

- [Washington College Fair Planning and Calendaring Resource](#). By WCHSCR. This resource provides best practices and questions students should ask the representatives.
- [College Scorecard](#). Find the right fit. Search and compare colleges: fields of study, costs, admissions, results, and more.
- [GetMyFuture](#). Youth want to work? Visit this resource from CareerOneStop. See also: [Job Launch](#) from Get Schooled.
- [Free ACT Practice Resources](#). Check out these free practice tests, videos, and study guides to help students

## In The News

- [Celebrating AANHPI Heritage Month](#)
- [Can Charter Schools Be Religious? If So, What Does That Mean for Public Education?](#)
- [No, College Students Aren't Being Silenced: Most Feel Free, Heard, and at Home on Campus](#)
- [Modern College Students Face Financial Fragility While Still Valuing Higher Education](#)
- [With Disability Rights Under Attack, History Offers Hope and a Possible Playbook](#)
- [Gender-Inclusive Policies Spark Federal Investigation of Washington Schools Agency](#)
- ['This Is Real-Life Stuff': High Schoolers Learn Carpentry, Home Ownership, Housing History in New Project](#)
- [Ready for Some Good WA Budget News? Local School Leaders Happy with Spending Plan](#)
- [New Dual-Credit Natural Resources Program from the Colville Tribes Connects Students to Culture, Careers, and College](#)
- [Reykdal's Statement on ED's Investigation into WA State's Gender-Inclusive Schools Law](#)
- [State Superintendent's Statement on Legislature's Final Operating Budget](#)
- [ED Axes \\$1B Mental Health Program Designed to Thwart School Shootings](#)
- [Educators Find Creative Workarounds to New Laws That Restrict What They Can Teach](#)
- [Teacher Burnout Is Still a Problem. Here's How to Fix It.](#)
- [Education Research Takes Another Hit in Latest DOGE Attack](#)
- [Trump's Spending Plans Are Late—Raising Worries about K-12 Funds](#)
- [Study Finds Financial Knowledge Alone Insufficient to Reduce College Students' Basic Needs Insecurity](#)

## 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
<a href="#">STEM Stars Actuarial Scholarship Program</a>	\$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
<a href="#">STEM Signing Day</a>	All Washington high school seniors graduating in 2025 and planning to pursue a postsecondary pathway in a STEM field are invited to apply! Those selected to be honored during a special event hosted in partnership with Boeing, the Seattle Seahawks, and Partnership for Learning.	5/11
<a href="#">NASA Internship Program</a>	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
<a href="#">Cameron Impact Scholarship</a>	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
<a href="#">The GEAR UP &amp; TRIO Scholarship</a>	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
<a href="#">Puget Sound Scholarships (PRSA): Horace and Susie Revels Cayton Scholarship</a>	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

<a href="#">PRSA: Sally Heet Memorial Scholarship</a>	Award: \$4,000 - This annual award is presented to an outstanding public relations student from a college or university in WA.	5/29
<a href="#">Islamic Society of North America Scholarships</a>	Several scholarships open to Muslim students pursuing higher education.	5/30
<a href="#">Ann Gallagher Memorial Scholarship</a>	(\$1,000) This scholarship is available to graduating high school seniors whose parent or guardian is a member of an affiliated union.	5/30
<a href="#">Humane Education Network: A Voice for Animals HS Essay Contest</a>	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
<a href="#">Jayme Biendl Working Womxn's Scholarship</a>	Teamsters Local 117 has established a new scholarship fund 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
<a href="#">American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship</a>	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
<a href="#">College is Power Scholarship</a>	(\$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
<a href="#">Fifth Month Scholarship</a>	(\$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
<a href="#">We the Future Contest</a>	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
<a href="#">UW Young Executives of Color Program</a>	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
<a href="#">ACF Visionary Scholarship</a>	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
<a href="#">Native Forward Scholars (was Wells Fargo Scholarship)</a>	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
<a href="#">SchoolHouse Connection Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program</a>	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
<a href="#">Stuck At Prom Scholarship Contest</a>	(\$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
<a href="#">Navigate Your Future Scholarship</a>	A \$2,500 scholarship is offered to a high school graduate continuing their education in the aviation industry.	6/27

<a href="#">Scholarship Poetry Contest - Fall Issue</a>	Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or fewer. Up to \$500.	6/30
<a href="#">Do-Over Scholarship</a>	(\$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
<a href="#">Geoscience IDEA Scholarship (formerly AWG Minority Scholarship)</a>	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



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