



Washington Student Achievement Council

Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

Issue: November 3-7, 2025

WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

- **Match Tip:** Is your school building offering professional development that aligns with GEAR UP goals and supports students? If so, and if the teachers are currently serving GEAR UP students, you can document this as a match. Please use code "13" on the In-Kind Match - School Staff form.
- **FYI: New Resources for GEAR UP Graduate Services.** WSAC has created [Peer Mentor/Text Messaging Flyers](#) and [Grad Newsletter Templates](#). Be sure to:
 - Customize these templates with information relevant to your community and graduates.
 - Include an invitation to an in-person financial aid event or other financial aid resources.
 - Add your personal contact information and encourage graduates to reach out if needed.
 - Send the newsletters to ALL graduates.

Admissions & Financial Aid Updates

- **Guaranteed Admissions Program.** GAP supports guaranteed admission efforts at [CWU](#), [EWU](#), [TESC](#), [WSU](#), and [WWU](#). Find resources for counselors and school districts.
- **Updated FAFSA Guidance for Mixed-Status Families.** This NCAN guidance covers changes to the 2026-27 FAFSA and additional resources to support families with mixed immigration status.
- **Virtual Fin. Aid Nights for Seniors & Juniors:** [Nov. 19, 5:30 PM](#). **for Parents/Guardians:** [Nov. 18, 5:30 PM](#)

Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

- **Fall NACAC College Fairs:** Nov. 9 (Virtual).
- Webinar: [Parent Support Night: Keeping Your Teen Inspired in High School](#). By BigFuture. Nov. 13, 5 PM.

Optional Professional Development

- Webinar: [NCCCEP's Study Lab](#). Nov. 5, Noon.
- Discussion Lab: [Internal Team Communication](#). By NCCCEP. Nov. 18, 11 AM.
- Webinar: [A Field Guide to Standardized Testing in 2025](#). By PNACAC. Nov. 20, 9 AM.
- Webinar: [Financial Inclusion in Action: Credit Union Resources for Educators](#). By FEPPP. Dec. 1, 4 PM.
- Webinar: [An Introduction to QuestBridge](#). By PNACAC. Dec. 18, 9 AM.
- Webinar: [From Application to Audition: Getting Into Arts Programs](#). By PNACAC. Jan. 15, 9 AM.
- Virtual: [2026 National GEAR UP Academy](#). Feb. 2-6.
- Webinar: [Connecting Rural Students with College Opportunities](#). By PNACAC. Feb. 19, 9 AM.
- [WSCA Conference](#). Mar. 4-6, Seattle. *Call for Proposals due Nov. 7.*
- [American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference](#). Apr. 10-14, Seattle.
- [2026 NCCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference](#). Washington, DC, Jul. 19-22. *The Call for Proposals is open!*

Resources

- **WAGU Featured Resource:** [Financial Aid & Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#). This handout accompanies the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook, which guides students through the college admissions and financial aid process.
- [Inform Homeless Youth About the FAFSA With An Email Template + Other FAFSA Resources](#). Find comprehensive FAFSA-related resources to help youth understand, prepare, and fill out the FAFSA.
- [Strategies to Support Native Students Experiencing Homelessness in Indian Country](#). This resource outlines key challenges and proven strategies for identifying and supporting Native students experiencing homelessness in Indian Country. Coming Soon: Resources for those in Urban Areas

- **[Tribal Colleges and Universities](#)**. During Native American Heritage Month, help students explore tribal colleges and universities for their college list.
- **[Celebrating Native American Heritage Month](#)**. Resources and insights from EDNW. Join us in supporting Native students, honoring their cultural assets, and centering Tribal culture, history, and ways of knowing.

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](#).

- [WSAC Names Members Of New Washington Completes FAFSA Advisory Board](#)
- [Report: Community Colleges Must Foster 'Culture Of Caring' To Boost Student Success](#)
- [Connecting, Learning, And Leading At GEAR UP West](#)
- [Apprenticeships Now: Trends, Investments, And Opportunities Nationally And In Washington](#)
- [Everett High School Celebrates New Free, On-Site Clinic](#)
- [College Admissions: How The Game Is Shifting](#)
- [How Administrators And Veteran Educators Can Team Up To Mentor New Teachers](#)
- [Amplifying Youth Voice: Strategies For Helping Youth Have Their Voices Heard](#)

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 provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.

Scholarship	Brief Description	Due
Elks Most Valuable Student Competition	\$1,000 to \$7,500 per year for full-time students (minimum 12 semester hours) pursuing a four-year degree at a U.S. college or university.	11/12
Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship Program	For high-achieving high school seniors with financial need. It is aimed at those attending top four-year colleges. Each award covers a significant portion of educational expenses, including tuition and living costs, and varies based on individual circumstances and other financial aid received.	11/12
Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship	(\$500) Submit two small essays: one about travel and one on why you deserve the scholarship. Ages 16-25, must have a GPA of 2.5+ and be a US citizen.	11/15
10 Words or Less Scholarship	(\$500) - In 10 words or fewer, say why you deserve the scholarship.	11/15
The National Honor Society Scholarship	High school seniors who are active NHS members are invited to apply for the annual scholarship.	11/24
Education Matters	(\$5,000) - In 250 words or fewer, respond to: "What would you say to someone who thinks education doesn't matter or that college is a waste of time and money?" For students 14yo+ who are legal residents.	11/30
Dell Scholars Program	(\$20,000) - For students who have demonstrated grit, potential, and ambition in their quest for education.	12/1
Ron Brown Scholar Program	This program awards 20 or more college scholarships annually, each valued at \$40,000, to extraordinary African American HS seniors. Students must attend a four-year accredited college or university.	12/1
Point Foundation: The Point Flagship Scholarship	Empowers LGBTQ+ and ally students in pursuing undergraduate, graduate, & doctoral degrees at accredited colleges by offering financial support, community resources, and professional development opportunities. Financial award based on need, renewable for up to four years of support.	12/5
Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Scholarships	Teens in grades 7–12 (ages 13 and up) can apply in 28 art and writing categories. See link for local deadlines: http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards/guidelines-deadlines/	12/5
Burger King Scholars	Provides scholarships from \$1,000 to \$60,000 for college or vocational school. Eligible applicants are U.S., Puerto Rico, Guam, or Canada high school seniors or past recipients with a minimum GPA of 2.0. Selection considers GPA, work experience, extracurriculars, community service, and financial need. Recipients must enroll full-time at an accredited institution for the 2026-27 academic year.	12/15

Dirk Derrick Car & Truck Accident Injury Scholarship	\$1,000 – For any current or soon-to-be undergraduate student who has had their life altered due to an injury from a car or truck accident, be it their injury or that of a loved one, or an influential individual.	12/30
NASA Student Art Contest	This year's theme encourages students to recognize the relationships among art, science, and technology that surround them and to discover new ways to connect the dots. The contest is open to K-12 students who are residents of the United States.	12/31
Mann Lake Beekeeping Scholarship	For those who are currently enrolled in or about to be enrolled in an apiology program, majoring in agriculture & environmental sciences, or other related studies. Offers a one-time award of \$1,000 to cover educational-related costs, including tuition, books, computers, room and board, and other educational expenses.	12/31
Stromberg's Scholarship Program	Provides a one-time reward of \$1000 to pay for tuition, books, computers, accommodation, or any education-related expense. No GPA requirement and no application forms.	12/31
Top Ten List Scholarship	(\$1,500) - In 250 words or fewer, submit a response to the question: "Create a Top Ten List of the top ten reasons you should get this scholarship."	12/31
Unigo \$10K Scholarship	(\$10,000) - Submit an online written response to the question: "2020 was a year to be remembered. What will you remember most about 2020 and why is it important to you?" (250 words or fewer)	12/31
College is Power Scholarship	(\$1,000) A scholarship to help you pay for college! Open to students aged 17 and older who are currently in college or plan to start college within the next 12 months. For tuition, books, room and board, computers, or anything else related to your education!	12/31
WA World Fellows Domestic Advocates	WWF is a 2.5-year global leadership program that cultivates future success among young Washingtonians by providing access to unique academic, travel, and leadership opportunities. Open to HS sophomores and is administered at no cost to students and their families. Almost every WWF plans to be the first in their family to attend college. (Administered by state law, the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, and a bipartisan group of 4 legislators serve on the Washington State Leadership Board.)	12/31
WA State Volunteer Service Awards.	Honor the many acts of kindness that individuals, families, service groups, and organizations perform in communities across the state of Washington.	1/5



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.

[SUBSCRIBE](#) | [UNSUBSCRIBE](#)

gearup.wa.gov