



Washington Student Achievement Council

Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

Issue: October 6-10, 2025

WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

- **Recommended Webinar: [College Bound Updates](#).** Discover auto-enrollment, available resources, and ways to connect! **Today, Oct. 7, 1–2:45 PM.**
- **Recommended Webinar: [12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Navigation Training](#).** Learn how to guide students through FAFSA/WASFA with confidence. **Oct. 8, 10-Noon.**
- **Reminder:** Parent surveys due by Oct. 30. Questions? Contact [Sandra](#).
- **[Fee Waivers for GEAR UP Students](#).** NCCEP has partnered with the Common App and NACAC to provide GEAR UP families with fee waivers for college applications. Access the Educator [College Application Fee Waiver Resource Guide](#) and the Student [Fee Waiver Flyer](#).
- **Match Tip:** Is GEAR UP helping to establish a job shadow program? Are students participating in job shadows to enhance their career exploration activities? Job shadows offer significant value, as the host site is donating time to provide this opportunity for students. Staff time can be documented on a Goods and Services match form. If GEAR UP is not covering transportation costs, you can document match contributions at the current mileage reimbursement rate on the Goods and Services form, as the donor is driving. If the driver is a volunteer or a parent, their time spent transporting the student also counts as a matching contribution.

Financial Aid Updates

- **[12th Year Campaign](#).** This campaign includes the American College Application Campaign and College Goal Washington (Financial Aid Filing). Sign up to receive free training, printed materials, and other resources.
- **[Financial Aid Resources](#).** Find resources will help you support students with financial aid and admissions.
- **[OtterBot](#)** is a free WSAC text messaging service that helps students with post-HS planning and financial aid. It's expanding to include 9th–12th-grade College Bound students and their parents/guardians.
- **Virtual Fin. Aid Nights for Seniors & Juniors:** [Nov. 19, 5:30 PM](#). **for Parents/Guardians:** [Nov. 18, 5:30 PM](#)

Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

- **[Bring AJAC To Your Classroom!](#)** From AJAC Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships. AJAC prefers in-class presentations over career fairs. See [AJAC Class Presentation Application](#)
- **[My Journey](#).** ACT hosts free virtual events to help students and families navigate the college admissions process. Topics include college knowledge for parents and college pathways for athletes—dates through Oct. 15, 4:30 PM.
- **[Fall NACAC College Fairs](#):** Virtual and in-person events. Dates: 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).
- **[Fall PNACAC College Fairs](#):** Thurston County Fair – Oct. 13 (SMU) and Pierce County Fair - Oct. 16 (TCC).

Optional Professional Development

- **Webinar: [Financial Aid Navigation](#).** By 12th Year Campaign. **Oct. 8, 10-Noon.**
- **Webinar: [2026-27 FAFSA Kickoff: FAFSA is Working!](#)** By NCAN. Free and open to the public. **Oct. 8, 11 AM.**
- **[GEAR UP West](#).** Oct. 26-28, Portland.
- **Webinar: [Empowering GU Success: Leveraging Everfi's Digital Resources for Student Impact](#).** Oct. 28, Noon.
- **Discussion Lab: [Continuing the Momentum of National GEAR UP Week](#).** By NCCEP. Oct. 30, 11 AM.
- **Virtual: [2026 National GEAR UP Academy](#).** Feb. 2–6.
- **[American Association of Community Colleges Annual Conference](#).** Apr.10-14, Seattle.
- **[2026 NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference](#).** Washington, DC, Jul. 19–22. *The Request for Proposals is open!*

Resources

- **WAGU Featured Resource: [Senior Year Binder System](#).** This manual provides guidance on assembling the binder, includes examples, and explains the rationale behind it. Feel free to modify it for students' needs.
- **[The College & Career Knowledge Project](#).** WSAC and partners created digital handouts that can be used independently or compiled into a workbook to support post-high school planning. Find new [Lesson Plans](#) and [order](#) paper copies. Available in [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [Vietnamese](#) | [Ukrainian](#) | [Somali](#) | [Russian](#) | [Arabic](#)
- **[Create Your Future Student and Educator materials](#).** From WCAN and WSAC. Covers essential postsecondary preparation topics like College Bound 101, Explore Your Career Road Map, Find a Good Fit for You, Goal Setting, and Scholarships. Each activity includes educator notes for facilitation and student activity worksheets.
- **[WSECU's Digital Financial Reality Fair](#).** Access modules and simulators to learn about finance, retirement, investing, and more. Designed to accommodate all skill levels. To get started, search for your school or use the default account.

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](#).

- [5 Big Ideas That Will Define The Future Of Education](#)
- [A One-Page Chart To Support Every Student Every Day](#)
- [Community Colleges Face Need For Transformation](#)
- [Getting Financial Aid For College Just Got Easier](#)
- [Nurses Are In High Demand. Why Can't Nursing Schools Keep Up?](#)
- [Take A Look! 'Reading Rainbow' Is Back](#)
- [The Costs Students Don't See Coming—And Why They Matter](#)
- [The Labor Department Will Have More Control Over CTE](#)

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
NSHSS Foundation STEM Scholarship	\$1,000 scholarships for underrepresented students with a 3.0 GPA or higher who plan to study a STEM field.	10/15
WSOS Career & Technical Scholarship (CTS) 101	This scholarship provides up to \$1,500 per quarter, every quarter, toward eligible associate degrees, certificates, or apprenticeships at eligible community or technical colleges. CTS funding can also be used at two apprenticeship sponsors, AJAC Advanced Manufacturing Apprenticeships and Evergreen Rural Water. Search the sponsor name in the eligible programs list . WSOS can cover costs beyond tuition, such as housing, transportation, food, and more.	10/16
NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing	For 9th - 12th-grade students, it recognizes their computing-related achievements and interests, encouraging them to pursue their passions.	10/28
U.S. Bank Scholarship Program	Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win. \$2,500-\$20,000	10/30
Voice of Democracy Scholarship.	(\$35,000) The Voice of Democracy audio-essay program offers high school students a unique opportunity to express themselves through a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay.	10/31
Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship	(\$2,000) - In 250 words or fewer, submit a response to the question: "Imagine that your high school or college has been overrun with zombies. Your math professor, the cafeteria ladies, and even your best friend have all joined the walking dead. Flesh out a plan to avoid the zombies, including where you'd hide and the top-five things you'd bring to stay alive."	10/31
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	11/12

	expenses, including tuition and living costs, and varies based on individual circumstances and other financial aid received.	
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
Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth	(\$2,000-\$4,000) - Helps youth from foster care continue their education and earn a college degree.	11/30
Leadership 1000 Scholarship	Provides up to \$5,000 per academic year to high school seniors from eligible WA high schools planning to enroll in a college or university. This renewable scholarship also offers career guidance, financial aid support, and networking opportunities.	11/30
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?" This award is for students aged 14+ 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 in the amount of \$40,000, to extraordinary African American high school 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 categories of art and writing. See link for local deadlines: http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards/guidelines-deadlines/	12/5
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.	12/15
NASA Student Art Contest	This year's theme encourages students to recognize the relationship between art, science, and technology that exists all around them and 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



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