



Washington Student Achievement Council

## Weekly Bulletin

Washington State GEAR UP

**Issue:** October 20-24, 2025

### WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

- **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](#). Additionally, students who had waivers for the SAT/ACT automatically qualify for waivers. Information is available here: [Using SAT waiver](#) and [Using ACT waiver](#)
- **Match Tip:** Because the College Board and ACT specifically allow for waivers for GEAR UP students, you may count these waivers as match. Document this match with a copy of the student's waiver form, then attach it to a Goods and Services Match Form. This tip includes waivers for any of their products, including PSAT, ACCUPLACER, and other similar assessments.

### Financial Aid Updates

- **Webinar: [FAFSA Completion Portal](#).** By WSAC. Learn how to use the FAFSA Portal, Dashboard, and get financial aid resources to support students with their applications. Oct. 23, 1 PM.
- **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](#)
- **[Fall NACAC College Fairs](#):** Nov. 9 (Virtual).

### Optional Professional Development

- **Webinar: [How Students Can Put Their Best Foot Forward in Their Application](#).** By PNACAC. Oct. 23, 9 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.
- **Webinar: [NCCEP's Study Lab](#).** Nov. 5, Noon.
- **Webinar: [A Field Guide to Standardized Testing in 2025](#).** By PNACAC. Nov. 20, 9 AM.
- **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.
- **[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: [College Access Considerations for Diverse Populations](#).** This resource guide is designed to assist college access professionals.
- **[College Fit Toolkit](#).** From Oregon Goes To College Resource. Explore strategies to understand the importance of college fit at every stage of the college choice process, from middle school to 12th grade.
- **[Native Pathways: A College-Going Guidebook](#).** From the American Indian College Fund. Designed to help Native students achieve a college degree or professional certificate.
- **[Admissions Beat: Shaping Community, Finding Your Fit](#).** A look at the role of community in a college search and how admission committees play a pivotal role in shaping the “campus vibe” from the applicants they consider.

## 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](#).

- [Six Findings on Americans' Views of Higher Education](#)
- [FAFSA Applications Lag in WA, and It Worries the Governor](#)
- [Can an Instant Price Estimator Help Students See Private Colleges As Affordable?](#)
- [College Degree Aspirations on the Decline](#)
- [The Business Benefits of Hiring People with Disabilities](#)
- [Supporting Transfer Student Success through Data](#)
- [Bracing for Impact](#)
- [Some Social Emotional Lessons Improve How Kids Do at School, Yale Study Finds](#)
- [Adventure Awaits: Chewelah Plans New Park to Engage Local Youth](#)
- [New Data Show Washington Students Continue To Outperform Their Peers In College Readiness Assessments](#)
- [Try-A-Trade Connects 1,400 Students with Skilled Trades Careers](#)
- [Robots Spark Learning at Thurston County Fair and Beyond](#)
- [Grays Harbor Youth Works Awarded \\$14K Donation from 100+ Harbor Women Who Care](#)

## 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   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <a href="#">NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing</a>    | For 9th - 12th-grade students, it recognizes their computing-related achievements and interests, encouraging them to pursue their passions.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 10/28 |
| <a href="#">U.S. Bank Scholarship Program</a>               | Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win. \$2,500-\$20,000                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 10/30 |
| <a href="#">Voice of Democracy Scholarship.</a>             | (\$35,000) The Voice of Democracy audio-essay program offers high school students a unique chance to express themselves through a recorded essay that is both democratic and patriotic in theme.                                                                                                                                                                            | 10/31 |
| <a href="#">Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship</a>               | (\$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 |
| <a href="#">Elks Most Valuable Student Competition</a>      | \$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 |
| <a href="#">Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship Program</a> | 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 |
| <a href="#">Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship</a>          | (\$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 |
| <a href="#">10 Words or Less Scholarship</a>                | (\$500) - In 10 words or fewer, say why you deserve the scholarship.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 11/15 |
| <a href="#">Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth</a>     | (\$2,000-\$4,000) - Helps youth from foster care continue their education and earn a college degree.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 11/30 |
| <a href="#">Leadership 1000 Scholarship</a>                 | 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 |
| <a href="#">Education Matters</a>                           | (\$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 |
| <a href="#">Dell Scholars Program.</a>                      | (\$20,000) - For students who have demonstrated grit, potential, and ambition in their quest for education.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | 12/1  |

|                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| <a href="#">Ron Brown Scholar Program</a>                                | 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  |
| <a href="#">Point Foundation: The Point Flagship Scholarship</a>         | 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  |
| <a href="#">Scholastic Art &amp; Writing Awards Scholarships</a>         | Teens in grades 7–12 (ages 13 and up) can apply in 28 categories of art and writing. See link for local deadlines: <a href="http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards/guidelines-deadlines/">http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards/guidelines-deadlines/</a>                                                                    | 12/5  |
| <a href="#">Dirk Derrick Car &amp; Truck Accident Injury Scholarship</a> | \$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 |
| <a href="#">NASA Student Art Contest</a>                                 | 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 |
| <a href="#">Mann Lake Beekeeping Scholarship</a>                         | 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 |
| <a href="#">Stromberg's Scholarship Program</a>                          | 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 |
| <a href="#">Top Ten List Scholarship</a>                                 | (\$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 |
| <a href="#">Unigo \$10K Scholarship</a>                                  | (\$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.

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