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| Issue: October 21-25, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Now Hiring**! WSAC seeks 1) a [GEAR UP Capacity Building Associate Director](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4670173/associate-director-of-gear-up-capacity-building?department%5b0%5d=Washington%20Student%20Achievement%20Council&sort=PostingDate|Descending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs) and 2) a [GEAR UP Implementation Associate Director](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4670085/associate-director-of-gear-up?department%5b0%5d=Washington%20Student%20Achievement%20Council&sort=PostingDate|Descending&pagetype=jobOpportunitiesJobs). Please share this information to help us find the perfect candidates for these positions.
* **Grant V Partner Schools:** This is a reminder that the Educator Survey link was sent to superintendents last week and is open through the close of business on Oct. 25. If you need it resent, please email marciem@wsac.wa.gov.
* **FAFSA Updates**: The 25-26 FAFSA and WASFA will open on Dec. 1 this year.
	+ New tools for the 2025-26 FAFSA cycle include [2025-26 Federal Student Aid Estimator](https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator) |[“Who Counts as a Parent?” Tool](https://studentaid.gov/fafsa-apply/parents)|[Create your Federal Student Aid (FSA) account guide (English)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D7d6a24409d%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Ccbee3158948948a8d02408dcede292d9%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638646804650122564%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2yPZxqS9w3mntFkBybQY78t%2BkO3C1dYoPpsnxobZM88%3D&reserved=0) | [Guía para crear tu cuenta de Federal Student Aid (FSA) (español)](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D8cd7d8df24%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Ccbee3158948948a8d02408dcede292d9%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638646804650135644%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=LE4Csy1kThrV9vLlV4XV7nZEY7p9dWB5pKUZiNp9%2FvQ%3D&reserved=0)

## Funding Opportunity

* [Opportunity to Implement Sources of Strength Youth Suicide Prevention Program](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7942522/d4419263019a). From DOH. [Sources of Strength](https://sourcesofstrength.org/) is an evidence-based suicide prevention program. Applications are processed on a first-come, first-serve basis. Questions? Contact Carolyn House-Higgins at the Department of Health.

## Student Recruitment & Outreach Events

* [12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.42fu3w63mb46) Most events are virtual. Spanish events are available.
* [Thurston County NACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 23.
* [Pierce County PNACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 24.
* [University of Idaho High School Design Day.](https://www.uidaho.edu/caa/highschool-events/hsdd) Oct. 25
* [Seattle NACAC Fair](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/). Oct. 25 & Oct. 26.
* [Student Survival Guide for Advocacy in Uncertain Times](https://educationvoters.salsalabs.org/2024_youth_advocacy_summit/index.html). Free event for youth, by youth, co-hosted by LEV and CCER. For students, parents, leaders, and community members. Oct. 26, 9:30-3:30, Renton Pavilion & Zoom.
* [Portland NACAC Fair.](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/) Oct. 27 & Oct. 28.
* [Spokane NACAC Fair](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/). Oct. 29.

## Optional Professional Development

* [Universal HSBP Platform Listen & Learn Sessions](https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=z1z-sqUQ_kauRaAmdBKveusnGjSqecFPjqSL79aKBp1UMUU2VEVFTkhaWUQyMFQ0UVo5TTlXQzdaNC4u). By OSPI. Learn about the statewide transition to a universal HSBP platform beginning in Fall 2025. **In-Person:** 10/23-Spokane. **Virtual:** 10/28, 3-4:30 PM- School Staff and Partners, 10/28, 5-6 PM- Families, Students, & Community.
* [GEAR UP West.](https://go.wsuprofed.com/website/72800/) Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM.
* Webinar: [Graduation Pathways.](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4017224477823/WN_Djqiwc-qSdiJ75LV-9eFgw#/registration) By OSPI-WSAC. Free clock hours. Oct. 30, 9 AM.
* Webinar: [Diving Deep into Admissions](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_36e5tUOJTgaysucrdSYevw). For K-12 practitioners by COP. Nov. 4, 11 AM.

## Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [ABC's of College Posters](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/abcs-college) and [College, Armed Services, & Opportunity Pennants](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/washington-state-gear-resources/college-going-culture/pennants). Display around your school or office.
* [College Fit Toolkit.](https://oregongoestocollege.org/toolkits/college-fit) From OR Goes to College. Discover strategies to explore the importance of college fit in every stage of the college choice process for middle school through 12th-grade students.
* [National Transfer Student Week](https://www.nists.org/national-transfer-student-week). This event celebrates transfer students and the professionals who support them on their journeys. Visit the [Celebration Ideas webpage](https://www.nists.org/ntsw-celebration-ideas) for even more suggestions!

## In The News

* [‘This Program Exists Because Of The Reinstatement Of Pell’](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/academics/2024/10/17/qa-leading-one-first-new-pell-eligible-prison-programs)
* [Biden-Harris Administration Hits Milestone: Loans Forgiven For 1 Million Public Servants](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/government/student-aid-policy/2024/10/18/biden-harris-administration-celebrates-debt-relief)
* [Career Pathways Are Growing, But Challenges Remain](https://www.newamerica.org/education-policy/edcentral/career-pathways-are-growing-but-challenges-remain)
* [Empowering Community Colleges To Prepare Workforce For Ai](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/10/empowering-community-colleges-to-prepare-workforce-for-ai)
* [How Four Universities Graduate Their Low-Income Students At Much Higher Rates Than Average](https://hechingerreport.org/how-four-universities-graduate-their-low-income-students-at-much-higher-rates-than-average/)
* [Most Hispanic Americans Say Increased Representation Would Help Attract More Young Hispanics To Stem](https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2024/10/15/most-hispanic-americans-say-increased-representation-would-help-attract-more-young-hispanics-to-stem)
* [Motivating Students Who Have Some College But No Credential](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/students/retention/2024/10/15/what-motivates-students-some-college-no-credential)
* Podcast: [How Does Income Affect Where Students Go To College](https://www.stlouisfed.org/timely-topics/how-does-income-affect-where-students-go-to-college)
* [Washington Board Of Education Wants To Overhaul High School Graduation Requirements](https://washingtonstatestandard.com/briefs/washington-board-of-education-wants-to-overhaul-high-school-graduation-requirements/)[How To Get Kids Off Social Media: 2 Tips From The Surgeon General](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/how-to-get-kids-off-social-media-2-tips-from-the-surgeon-general/2024/10)
* ['You're Not Alone:' A Teen Podcaster Sends Message To Kids With Incarcerated Parents](https://www.npr.org/2024/10/14/nx-s1-5108634/parental-incarceration-father-podcast)
* [What Happened When A District Put Struggling Students In Regular Algebra?](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/what-happened-when-a-district-put-struggling-students-in-regular-algebra/2024/10)
* [Why Fewer Students Are Disclosing Race On Top College Applications](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2024/10/21/affirmative-action-ban-admissions-effect-2024/75699203007/)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

*Find more opportunities at:* <https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/scholarships>.

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| Scholarship | Brief Description | Due |
| [Apply for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest.](http://www.samsung.com/us/solvefortomorrow/home.html) | With the help of their teachers, students can apply to the contest and compete to win $100,000 in prizes for their school, plus the opportunity to work with Samsung employees to develop their prototypes. Through the Solve for Tomorrow competition, teachers can teach students problem-based learning (PBL) by challenging them to solve a problem that impacts their community. | 10/24 |
| [NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing](https://www.aspirations.org/award-programs/apply-for-the-award-for-aic) | The AiC High School Award honors 9th-12th grade women, genderqueer, and non-binary students for their computing-related achievements and interests and encourages them to pursue their passions. Award recipients are selected based on their aptitude and aspirations in technology and computing, as demonstrated by their computing experience, computing-related activities, leadership experience, tenacity in the face of barriers to access, and plans.  | 10/29 |
| [U.S. Bank Scholarship Program](https://www.usbank.com/about-us-bank/community/student-scholarship.html) | Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win. $2,500-$20,000 | 10/30 |
| [Disney Dreamers Academy Applications](https://www.disneydreamersacademy.com/be-a-dreamer/apply/) | (Academy) - Disney Dreamers Academy is a 4-day, power-packed event in which 100 select high school students, ages 13 to 19, are inspired, motivated, and prepared to dream big. | 10/31 |
| [Zombie Apocalypse Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship) | ($2,000) - In 250 words or less, 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 best friend 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 |
| [Voice of Democracy Scholarship](https://www.vfw.org/VOD/) | ($35,000) Voice of Democracy audio-essay program gives high school students the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first-place winner receives a $30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college, or vocational/technical school. | 10/31 |
| [AGC Workforce Development Scholarship](https://www.agc.org/learn/education-and-research-foundation/scholarship-program) | $1,000 for students pursuing associate degrees, technical training, or certificates to enter the construction industry. | 11/1 |
| [Haz La U](https://hhfawards.hispanicheritage.org/2024/forms/welcome.php) | From Colgate in partnership with the Hispanic Heritage Foundation. Have you focused on academic excellence, dedicated service to your community, and demonstrated leadership? One of 31 educational grants could reward your effort, with Colgate providing $100,000 in total support. | 11/3 |
| [Elks Most Valuable Student Competition](http://www.elks.org/ENF/scholars/mvs.cfm) | Ranging from $1,000 to $7,500 per year. Most Valuable Student scholarships are for full-time students pursuing a four-year degree (minimum of 12 semester hours) in a U.S. college or university. All scholarships are in the form of certificates of award, conditional upon the full-time enrollment of the winner in an accredited U.S. college or university. | 11/12 |
| [Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship Program](http://www.jkcf.org/scholarship-programs/college-scholarship/) | The Cooke College Scholarship Program is an undergraduate program available to high-achieving high school seniors with financial needs who seek to attend and graduate from the nation's top four-year colleges and universities. Each award is intended to cover a significant share of the student’s educational expenses – including tuition, living expenses, books, and required fees. Awards vary by individual, based on the cost of tuition and other grants or scholarships they may receive. | 11/14 |
| [Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship](http://www.odenzascholarships.com/awards/8/eligibility_odenza_marketing_group_scholarship.phphttp%3A/www.odenzascholarships.com/) | ($500) Must submit two small essays, one related to travel, & the other on why they deserve a scholarship. Must be 16-25, w/ 2.5 GPA or greater. US citizenship is required.  | 11/15 |
| [10 Words or Less Scholarship](https://www.studentscholarships.org/easy.php#sthash.2vdhoRcz.dpbs) | ($500) - In 10 words or less, say why you deserve the scholarship. | 11/15 |
| [National Honor Society Scholarship](https://www.nationalhonorsociety.org/advisers/the-nhs-scholarship/) | Up to $25,000 for high school seniors who are members in good standing of an affiliated National Honor Society chapter. | 11/26 |
| [Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wagovernors) | ($2,000-$4,000) - The Washington State Governors' Scholarship for Foster Youth is a scholarship program that helps young men and women from foster care continue their education and earn a college degree. | 11/30 |
| [Leadership 1000 Scholarship](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/wa/scholarships/leadership-1000) | The Leadership 1000 Scholarship awards funding to high school seniors attending eligible high schools and planning to enroll in a Washington state college or university. The scholarship is renewable, and it is available in amounts up to $5,000 per academic year. In addition to the scholarship, scholars receive guidance regarding career, financial aid, and networking opportunities with CSF alums and scholarship donors to ensure students graduate with a four-year degree and succeed in life. | 11/30 |
| [Education Matters](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-scholarship) | ($5,000) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "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 U.S. students. You must be 14 years of age or older to apply. Must be a legal U.S. resident. Must reside in the 50 United States or the District of Columbia. | 11/30 |
| [Dell Scholars Program](https://www.dellscholars.org/scholarship/) | ($20,000) - The Dell Scholars Program emphasizes a student’s determination to succeed beyond academic record and test scores. Our GPA requirements are Grit, Potential, and Ambition. We reward low-income, highly motivated students who are better than their numbers indicate and demonstrate the drive to succeed despite personal obstacles.  | 12/1 |
| [Point Foundation: The Point Flagship Scholarship](https://www.pointfoundation.org/point-apply/apply-now/) | The Point Flagship Scholarship empowers LGBTQ students to earn their undergraduate, graduate, & doctoral degrees at accredited colleges in the United States. Amount: Financial award based on need, renewable for up to four years of support. | 12/5 |
| [Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Scholarships](https://www.artandwriting.org/scholarships/) | Teens in grades 7–12 (ages 13 and up) can apply in 28 categories of art and writing. See the link for local deadlines: http://www.artandwriting.org/the-awards/guidelines-deadlines | 12/5 |
| [Dedication to Education](https://getschooled.com/dedication-to-education-scholarship/) | From Get Schooled. Who’s Eligible?: Current High School Juniors and Seniors (Classes of 2025 & 2026). Award: $2,000 Scholarship (Five (5) Scholarships in Total) | 12/8 |
| [Reach For Your Peak](https://getschooled.com/peak-scholarship/) | A $2,500 scholarship for a high school junior or senior living in Oregon or Washington. | 12/8 |
| [NASA Student Art Contest](https://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/) | This year’s theme encourages students to recognize the relationship between art, science, and technology around them and discover new ways to connect the dots. NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, invites students in grades K-12 to participate in the 2024 NASA Langley Art Contest, using the theme “Connect the Dots.” The contest is open to all children who are residents of the United States and currently in grades K-12 | 12/31 |
| [Top Ten List Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, 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](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship) | ($10,000) - Submit an online written response to the question: "Would you rather be smart, funny, or rich? Why?" (250 words or less) | 12/31 |
| [Mann Lake Beekeeping Scholarship](https://www.mannlakeltd.com/scholarship/) | Mann Lake’s scholarship is for college students who aspire to be outstanding and extraordinary. We are looking for academically excellent students pursuing a better education who are currently enrolled in or about to enroll in an apiology program, majoring in agriculture and environmental sciences or related studies. | 12/31 |
| [Stromberg’s Scholarship Program](https://www.strombergschickens.com/scholarship/) | The Stromberg’s Chicken scholarship provides a one-time reward of $1000 for tuition, books, computers, accommodation, or any education-related expense. There’s no GPA requirement and no application forms. | 12/31 |
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| 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. |