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| Issue: September 16-20, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Happy National Hispanic Heritage Month!** From September 15 to October 15, we celebrate 30 days of Hispanic heritage and the Independence Day of five Central American countries: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, in addition to Mexico and Chile.
* **Upcoming Website Redesign!** We are thrilled to announce that gearup.wa.gov is being redesigned and will be unveiled this fall. Stay tuned for updates!
* [National GEAR UP Week](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D79ae46de28%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Cb4b6edec0eca42ad728908dbfbee5407%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638380773276189820%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=v%2F0B04E%2FzPLynNv9fVxpF2I941GFulEB8IYKeQWUzt0%3D&reserved=0) will occur September 23–27, 2024. Feel free to use our resources to plan for this week.
* **2024-25 FAFSA Updates:** Stay up-to-date on [FAFSA changes](https://wsac.wa.gov/2024-25-FAFSA-Updates).
* **DEADLINE for WAGU Grant 4 Schools: The Senior Student Interest Survey** is open through Sept. 25. You will receive a progress report on Sept. 16 and 23. Raw results will be returned by Sept. 30. See Marcie’s 9/11 email for additional information and survey links.

## 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.
* [Free FAFSA/WASFA Help To 2024 High School Graduates.](https://www.collegesuccessfoundation.org/our-approach/financial-aid/) College Success Foundation (CSF) offers free, virtual one-on-one sessions through September! Sessions are available in English, Spanish, or other languages upon request. Book a meeting at the link—in-person events in Spokane and Yakima.
* [College Possible Washington](https://collegepossible.org/) also offers in-person and virtual FAFSA/WASFA [completion workshops and individual appointments](https://sites.google.com/collegepossible.org/finaid-event-registration/home) for students and family members to drop in and get support.
* Virtual Workshop Series on Selective College Admissions. GEAR UP students, families, and educators are invited to a virtual workshop series with the Consortium for College Opportunity.
* Sept. 17: [Selective Colleges 101: What, Why, and How?](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D5c3e84925b%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C7c4a93bfb2ef4f1539c208dccce1b910%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638610517107590986%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=cBFwa6VLgcUADK5yIc2IoNOwAp4%2FY7xY9JEPGrlv8OA%3D&reserved=0)
* Sept. 24: [Small Liberal Arts Colleges: The Advantage](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D3f989f5a38%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C7c4a93bfb2ef4f1539c208dccce1b910%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638610517107597330%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bvGSBGmuHjjT4YvBF7l%2FLUfuXKYLVA21g1rRkObla3w%3D&reserved=0)
* Oct. 1: [Selective College Application and Admissions Process](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3Daac74de71a%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C02%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C7c4a93bfb2ef4f1539c208dccce1b910%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638610517107603533%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=vOtTE76f%2Fkk3dusT0mE3oVZd8f8qCo9urUIR5Ez%2BS3Y%3D&reserved=0)
* Virtual: [College Admissions 101 - Ace Your Application](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/college-and-career-planning-event-sessions.html). By ACT. Sept. 18, 4 PM.
* [Thurston County NACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 23.
* [Pierce County PNACAC Fair](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs). Oct. 24.
* [Seattle NACAC Fair](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/). Oct. 25 & Oct. 26.
* [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:** 9/19- Anacortes, 9/24-Tumwater, 9/26-Vancouver, 9/30- Renton, 10/1- Wenatchee, 10/2- Bremerton, 10/7-Pasco, 10/8-Yakima, 10/23-Spokane.
	+ **Virtual:**10/21, 1:30 – 3 PM-School Staff and Partners, 10/21, 4-5 PM- Families, Students, & Community, 10/28, 3-4:30 PM- School Staff and Partners, 10/28, 5-6 PM- Families, Students, & Community
* [2024-2025 Financial Aid Application Training](https://www.pdenroller.org/psesd/catalog/173986). By PSCCN and WSAC. Sept. 20, Green River College Kent Campus.
* Webinar: [Developing an Ecosystem for Authentic Family & Community Engagement](https://edtrust.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_G8fh6RXyRbawueXetOiVkw?emci=b2015d46-3871-ef11-991a-6045bda8aae9&emdi=48d0c275-4671-ef11-991a-6045bda8aae9&ceid=322525#/registration). By EdTrust. Sep 25, 11 AM.
* Virtual: [Grad Team Office Hour Returns](https://oercommons.s3.amazonaws.com/media/editor/389544/Grad_Team_1.pdf). Sept. 25, 2:30 PM
* Webinar: [Financial Aid](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4017224477823/WN_Djqiwc-qSdiJ75LV-9eFgw#/registration). By OSPI/WSAC. 1.5 Clock Hours. Oct. 2, 9 AM.
* [Webinar Series for K-12 by WA Public 4-Year Universities](https://councilofpresidents.org/_admissions/). For K-12 practitioners by COP.
	+ [Oct. 9: Understanding Success from the College Admissions Perspective](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_P8WZpWT4SNSL4tHBznJGMw)
	+ [Nov. 4 Diving Deep into Admissions](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_36e5tUOJTgaysucrdSYevw)
	+ [Apr. 9: The Final Stretch: From High School Graduation to College](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hiuQz5GoTLWX4iZ2Rtlrvg)
* [WSCA Fall Leadership Conference](https://leadership.wscaconference.org/registration/). For all school counselors and their administrators. Oct. 11-12, Spokane.
* [GEAR UP West.](https://go.wsuprofed.com/website/72800/) Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM.

## 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)
* [Supporting teacher and staff well-being](https://thrivingschools.kaiserpermanente.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Back-to-School-Tip-Sheet_2024.pdf). From Kaiser Permanente’s Thriving Schools. This curated list contains top health and wellness resources for school staff and policy development ideas for school and district leaders.
* [How to Improve Your School’s Response to Chronic Absenteeism](https://www.gradpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/How-to-Improve-Response-to-Chronic-Absenteeism_Fillable.pdf). From the Grad Partnership. This new tool offers tips for school-based teams to use in developing action plans for understanding chronic absenteeism in a local context and strategizing for designing interventions.
* [Exploring The Reach And Impact Of Basic Needs Services At Postsecondary Institutions: Learnings From A Multi-State Evaluation In 2020–21 And 2021–22.](https://educationnorthwest.org/sites/default/files/pdf/ecme-bni-evaluation-report-two-508c.pdf?fbclid=IwZXh0bgNhZW0CMTAAAR01NSr0pH7xoB7dJZquQ9qr1asNF1cH_fwDjrCllNX_HSe2dr4piBUTCgs_aem_et2eUVYd48t65Dw3ZRESqQ) From EDNW. In their study of students at 20 colleges, those who accessed food assistance in the fall term were 6 to 13% more likely to return to the winter/spring term than their peers.
* [Build a “Share What Works” Experience in Your School Community!](https://www.edutopia.org/article/build-a-share-what-works-experience-in-your-school-community) From Edutopia. Download and share a free How-To Guide and Toolkit.

## In The News

* [College Credit Program For WA High Schoolers Sees Enrollment Jump Now That It’s Free](https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/09/11/college-credit-program-for-wa-high-schoolers-sees-enrollment-jump-now-that-its-free)
* [Creating A Classroom Community: The Role Of Differentiation](https://medium.com/%40PassTheMic/creating-a-classroom-community-the-role-of-differentiation-f5b001f4757e)
* [Everett And Cascade To Open Free Student Health Centers](https://www.heraldnet.com/news/everett-and-cascade-to-open-free-student-health-centers/)
* [The Impact Of The Supreme Court’s Reversal Of Affirmative Action, Explained In One Chart](https://www.vox.com/policy/370854/affirmative-action-black-enrollment-universities-diversity-supreme-court)
* [50 States, One Goal: Cut Chronic Absenteeism In Schools By 50 Percent In 5 Years](https://thehill.com/opinion/education/4851957-cutting-chronic-absenteeism-schools/)
* [An AI Tutor Helped Harvard Students Learn More Physics In Less Time](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/64694/an-ai-tutor-helped-harvard-students-learn-more-physics-in-less-time)
* [To Test Or Not To Test](https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/views/2024/09/16/review-nicholas-lemanns-higher-admissions-opinion)
* [Answering The Age-Old Math Question, 'When Will I Use This In Real Life?'](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/64675/answering-the-age-old-math-question-when-will-i-use-this-in-real-life)
* [Can Online Classes Change The Game For Some Students?](https://www.gatesnotes.com/Blaire-Penry-believes-online-classes-change-the-game-for-some-students)
* [Affirmative Action Gets Another Day In Court](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/admissions/traditional-age/2024/09/17/us-naval-academy-begins-trial-over-affirmative-action)
* [Too Few Middle-Skills Credentials To Meet Future Job Demand](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/tech-innovation/alternative-credentials/2024/09/05/too-few-middle-skills-credentials-meet)
* [College Uncovered, Season 3, Episode 1: Un-Welcome To College](https://hechingerreport.org/college-uncovered-season-3-episode-1/)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

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

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| ***Scholarship*** | ***Brief Description*** | ***Due*** |
| [Don’t Text and Drive Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship) | ($1,000) - Complete the application form, including a 140-character message about texting while driving. The top 10 applications will be selected as finalists. The finalists will be asked to write a full-length 500- to 1,000-word essay about texting while driving. | 9/30 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest - Winter Issue](http://www.justpoetry.org/submissions) | ($100-$500) - Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less.  | 9/30 |
| [Shout It Out Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/shout-it-out-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit an online response to the question: "If you could say one thing to the world at once, what would it be and why? | 9/30 |
| [Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship](http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/#programs) | ($20,000) - High school seniors with a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA may apply on our website in August of their senior year until the September 30 deadline. 150 Coca-Cola Scholars are selected each year to receive this $20,000 scholarship. | 9/30 |
| [NSHSS Foundation STEM Scholarship](https://nshssfoundation.org/scholarships) | $1,000 scholarships for underrepresented students with a 3.0 GPA or higher who plan to study a STEM field.  | 10/15 |
| [National YoungArts Foundation Scholarship](https://youngarts.org/apply/) | Up to $50,000 for young artists in grades 10-12 or ages 15-18 with talent in cinematic arts, dance, design arts, jazz, music, photography, theater, visual arts, voice, and writing.  | 10/17 |
| [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 your 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 |
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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. |