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| Issue: September 23-27, 2024 |

## WA State GEAR UP Program Updates

* **Happy National GEAR UP Week!**
* **Upcoming Website Redesign** gearup.wa.gov will be unveiled in October. Stay tuned for updates!
* **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 now through Oct. 5. You will receive a progress report on Sept 16 and 23. Raw results will be returned to you by October 12. Please see Marcie’s email sent on 9/11 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. 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) and 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)
* [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.
* [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

* 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
* [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:** 9/26-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
* 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: [College Bound Updates.](https://wsac-wa-gov.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZIpdeqhpz4vHNdZOlG_R9SBwxRStNtSmNMB?utm_medium=email&utm_source=WSAC#/registration) By WSAC and CSF. Oct. 8, 1 PM
* [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:** [Getting Ready for Campus Visits](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/getting-ready-campus-visits-gear-handbook-providing-campus-visits-middle-and-high-school). Includes best practices and resources to help plan meaningful on-campus experiences. Contains replicable, customizable tools. See also: [Grade-Level Campus Visit Benchmarks](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/grade-level-campus-visit-benchmarks)
* [Classroom Resources to Celebrate the Freedom to Read](https://www.nea.org/resource-library/classroom-resources-celebrate-freedom-read). Find posters, bookmarks, stickers, and ways to show your support for banned books and freedom from censorship in the classroom.
* [2024 Construction Apprenticeship Guidebook](https://www.seattle.gov/documents/departments/fas/purchasingandcontracting/apprenticeshipguidebook.pdf?fbclid=IwY2xjawFfrJZleHRuA2FlbQIxMAABHYaCZCPrYJXcFlmaLgyD_o-IOXgeGL7WkHntOAmBhhnpPOV8OMuOMDxYAQ_aem_e3nGX7RDTNvp03bcY-hRmg). Are you looking for a career instead of a minimum-wage job? Are you considering a career in construction? Then you have come to the right place. We need trained professionals to build structures like homes, offices, high-rises, roads, and bridges. These projects are essential to everyday life and need hundreds of workers trained in more than 20 building trades. Building trades (also called crafts) include laborers, ironworkers, cement masons, carpenters, heavy equipment operators, plumbers, sheet metal workers, painters, and many more. This book will help you become one of these skilled professionals.

## In The News

* [WA Districts Are Banning Student Cellphone Use. Here’s How It’s Going](https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2024/09/16/wa-districts-are-banning-student-cellphone-use-school-cellphone-policies/)
* [Learning Curve: WA Schools Grapple With New Cell Phone Policies](https://www.cascadepbs.org/news/2024/09/learning-curve-wa-schools-grapple-new-cell-phone-policies)
* [A Year After The Supreme Court’s Historic Affirmative Action Ruling, MIT’s Drop In Student Diversity Provides A Cautionary Tale](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-a-year-after-the-supreme-courts-historic-affirmative-action-ruling-mits-drop-in-student-diversity-provides-a-cautionary-tale)
* [You Got Into College. How Will You Pay For It?](https://www.vox.com/even-better/369475/paying-for-college-advice-financial-aid-loans-scholarships-fafsa)
* [State Efforts Provide Models For Workforce Pell](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/09/state-efforts-provide-models-for-workforce-pell)
* [Stackable Certificates Kickstart Career Opportunities](https://www.seattletimes.com/sponsored/stackable-certificates-kickstart-career-opportunities)
* [This Is What Admissions Officers Really Want To Read In College Essays](https://www.vox.com/even-better/369514/college-application-essay-advice-personal-statement-common-app-supplemental-essays)
* [Finding The Perception Gap In College Math Classrooms And Beyond](https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/career-advice/teaching/2024/09/18/three-ways-teach-college-math-compassion-opinion)
* [Applying To College? Seven Current Students On How To Stand Out And Stay Sane.](https://www.vox.com/even-better/369659/college-application-advice-undergraduate-extracurricular-organization-stress)

## Scholarships & Opportunities

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

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| ***Scholarship*** | ***Brief Description*** | ***Due*** |
| [QuestBridge Scholarship](https://www.questbridge.org/apply-to-college/programs/national-college-match) | The 2024 National College Match is now open for high school seniors! QuestBridge has helped over 14,000 students receive full four-year scholarships worth $325,000, covering tuition, housing, and more. With 52 college partners, including Amherst, Duke, Stanford, and Yale, QuestBridge offers opportunities to students from low-income backgrounds. The free application is open for all U.S. high school seniors.  | 9/26 |
| [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. |