WEEKLY BULLETIN

**March 25-29, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**  Nearly **half** of all college students surveyed reported experiencing basic needs insecurity.  >>[Learn more.](https://wsac.wa.gov/sites/default/files/2023.BasicNeedsReport.pdf) |
| * Program Updates * Student Recruitment & Outreach Events |
| * Optional Professional Development |
| * Resources |
| * In the News * Scholarships & Opportunities |

# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters)**.** Monthly newsletters for students by grade level. Pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! *Available in English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.*

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* [**uAspire** **Virtual Financial Aid Help Events**](https://www.uaspire.org/FinAidEvents). Free virtual events to walk students and families.
* [**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.
* [**NACAC Spring 2024 National College Fair**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**.** 3/24-Virtual, 4/21-Virtual.
* **Webinar:** [**The Roadmap to Success: Preparing Early for Your Best College Experience**](https://www.act.org/content/act/en/students-and-parents/college-and-career-planning-event-sessions.html). By ACT & Collegewise. Apr. 2, 4 PM.
* [**Class of 2024 Financial Aid Night**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.mb3m9x2w19io). Get help correcting or completing your FAFSA or WASFA. Hosted on Zoom in English and Spanish. Apr. 10, 5:30-7:30 PM.
* [**PNACAC Spring College Fair**](https://www.pnacac.org/spring-college-fairs). 4/19-Spokane ([Download poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/b74d23de-3e99-ba74-981a-1692c443e000/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Spokane.pdf)), 4/22-Seattle ([poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/bec53497-71ac-c046-cead-d8d534a03291/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Seattle.pdf)), 4/25- Everett ([poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/32fbdb15-9535-f42e-a247-30bf88776847/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Snohomish_Cty.pdf)), 4/30-Portland ([poster](https://mcusercontent.com/ff027d691a3c84ebed4563da9/files/bec53497-71ac-c046-cead-d8d534a03291/Spring_2024_College_Fair_Poster.Seattle.pdf)).

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **Webinar:** [**FAFSA Fixes And How To Use Them.**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1845458&group=&fbclid=IwAR2wsx0ilfvgJl1Y5tWLtaLPfComWN6GhHOpzxMIDJEYQ08qZkDEWOOOtF4) By NCAN & uAspire. Mar. 26, 10:30 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Better FAFSA, Better Future Webinar.**](https://ed-gov.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_5wRyn7utQeqzot2bL1N4iw?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=agorapulse&utm_content=ap_fnd17jvlp5&fbclid=IwAR0vpPubz5N_N-bztYjsFfbgTqu-H3o5YSqsWAacV1wrAETSA58wiBRoGxw#/registration) By ED. Mar. 26, 12:30 PM
* **Webinar:** [**Family Engagement + Attendance: Two Sides of the Same Coin**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_buz71MTIQomdA8WtUz5BJQ#/registration). By Attendance Works, Learning Heroes, and the Flamboyan Foundation. Mar. 28, Noon.﻿
* **Webinar:** [**How Our Institutions are Accommodating and Navigating the Delay in Higher Education Financial Aid for 2024.**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_H8mQgLIDRPSkLvupMKMBaA#/registration) By LEV. Live Spanish interpretation and closed captioning in English will be provided. Mar 28, 12:30 PM
* **College Counseling 101 Webinar:** [**Tips for Advising Prospective Student-Athletes**](https://pnacac.memberclicks.net/webinars). Open to PNACAC members only. Intended for Secondary/High School Counselors. Apr. 11, 9:00 AM
* **Free & Virtual:** [**NCAN Spring Institute 2024: Pursuing Effective Advising For Every Student**](https://www.ncan.org/page/2024springinstitute). Open and free of charge to NCAN members and non-members alike! Includes a week of programming exploring how college access programs, K-12 districts and schools, postsecondary institutions, and states can best support students for a postsecondary pathway. Apr. 15-19.
* **Webinar:** [**Embarking on the Journey: Washington High Schools Guiding College Transitions.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ESaQZtPFQ4W9J8qdKRH58g#/registration) *Hosted by the Council of Presidents and Directors of Admissions at Washington’s public, four-year institutions.* April 25, 9:45-11:00 AM.
* [**The Rural Summit 2024: From Cradle to Career**](https://web.cvent.com/event/caec6588-98be-41fc-a1b4-d8ca65824869/websitePage:3d6d2182-5322-49db-bc62-7309541129c3)**.** Apr. 28 - May 1, Lexington, KY.
* **Virtual:** [**Annual Passport to Careers Conference**](https://www.washingtonpassportnetwork.org/2024-conference/). Early bird registration is open! May 14.
* [**PNACAC Conference: Where It All Began**](https://www.pnacac.org/annual-conference)**.** May 22 - 24, Salem, OR.
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 21-24, Washington, DC.

# Resources:

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Which Financial Aid Is the Best to Accept?**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/which-financial-aid-best-accept) This handout accompanies the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook, which guides students through navigating college admissions and financial aid.
* [**Award Letters Are Arriving; Do Your Students Understand Them?**](https://www.ncan.org/news/636151/Award-Letters-Are-Arriving-Do-Your-Students-Understand-Them.htm) Despite delays, students and families will need help navigating financial aid offers. Find more resources from [WA State GU](https://gearup.wa.gov/students/pay-for-college) and [OR Goes to College](https://oregongoestocollege.org/go/decide).
* [**SwiftStudent**](https://formswift.com/swift-student). This free digital tool helps students with the financial aid appeals process and allows them to write an appeal letter. Learn more about financial aid appeals on the [WSAC website.](https://wsac.wa.gov/financial-aid-appeals)
* [**A Quick Guide to Financial Aid Award Letters**](https://micollegeaccess.org/news/ncan-march-2024)**.** From MCAN. In a typical FAFSA year, students would have already received admissions letters, and financial aid packages would soon follow. These offers — often referred to as award letters — are sure to spark conversations about college affordability between students, families, and college attainment professionals. The rocky rollout of the Better FAFSA means that students will receive their financial aid awards much later this year. Here are a few critical things that students and families need to know about financial aid offers when theirs do arrive.

**IN THE NEWS**

* [FAFSA Timeline Delayed Again](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/03/26/students-cant-make-fafsa-corrections-until-april)
* [With College Decisions Looming, Students Ask: What’s The Cost, Really?](https://stateofwa.sharepoint.com/sites/WSAC-gearup/Shared%20Documents/GEARUP/Grant%20IV/Weekly%20Bulletins/·%09https:/www.washingtonpost.com/education/2024/03/25/students-fafsa-financial-aid-delays/)
* [School Counselors Can’t Undo The FAFSA Mess On Their Own. We Need A National Movement Right Now](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-school-counselors-cant-undo-the-fafsa-mess-on-their-own-we-need-a-national-movement-right-now).
* [There’s A Temporary Fix To The FAFSA Mess — All Colleges Must Extend Decision Deadlines](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-theres-a-temporary-fix-to-the-fafsa-mess-all-colleges-must-extend-decision-deadlines)
* [We Fear Our Students Will Be Shut Out Of College Due To FAFSA Failures](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-we-fear-our-students-will-be-shut-out-of-college-due-to-fafsa-failures)
* [How AI Could Explode The Economy And How It Could Fizzle.](https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/24108787/ai-economic-growth-explosive-automation)
* [There's Another Generational Divide In The U.S., And It's Happiness](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/63399/theres-another-generational-divide-in-the-u-s-and-its-happiness)
* [To Those Rejected: A College Pep Talk For Me As Much As You](https://readywa.org/to-those-rejected-a-college-pep-talk-for-me-as-much-as-you)
* [Battling Student Absenteeism With Grandmas, Vans And A Lot Of Love](https://www.kqed.org/mindshift/63368/battling-student-absenteeism-with-grandmas-vans-and-a-lot-of-love)
* [U.S. Life Expectancy Rebounded In 2022 But COVID And Drug Overdoses Were Still Deadly](https://www.npr.org/2024/03/21/1239815742/life-expectancy-rebounded-2022-covid-overdoses-deadly)
* [This Year It's A Slow Crawl To Financial Aid Packages For Students](https://www.npr.org/2024/03/21/1239730134/fafsa-delays-continue-students-wait-for-college-financial-aid)
* [Leveling The Playing Field For College Recommendations](https://stateofwa.sharepoint.com/sites/WSAC-gearup/Shared%20Documents/GEARUP/Grant%20IV/Weekly%20Bulletins/·%09https:/www.forbes.com/sites/brennanbarnard/2024/03/19/leveling-the-playing-field-for-college-recommendations)
* [Some HBCUs Are Seeing Enrollment Surge. Here’s Why.](https://www.highereddive.com/news/hbcus-enrollment-surge-why/710494)
* [Get To Know The ABCs Of Generative AI. It Could Power Your School Systems](https://www.edweek.org/technology/opinion-get-to-know-the-abcs-of-generative-ai-it-could-power-your-school-systems/2024/03)
* [Paving An Easier Path](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/03/paving-an-easier-path)
* [Three Ways To Bring Financial Literacy To Life In Your Classroom](https://blog.khanacademy.org/three-ways-to-bring-financial-literacy-to-life-in-your-classroom)
* [Virginia Beavert [Of The Yakama Nation] Who Preserved A Language The U.S. Tried To Erase, Dies At 102](https://www.wsj.com/us-news/education/virginia-beavert-who-preserved-a-language-the-u-s-tried-to-erase-dies-at-102-41b1464f?mod=education_news_article_pos1)

**SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES**

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

* **[Scholarship Junkies’ Free Scholarship Bank](https://www.scholarshipjunkies.org/scholarship-search)**. Scholarship Junkies has launched their brand-new Scholarship Bank! This organization is a reputable and safe source to search for scholarships.

* **[Summer Melt Scholarship](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSelTofmBsJ--CTh2MI5ZFOz5Of3ZiA8ebzVP2P0w3C2v_X5CA/viewform?mc_cid=5638f38362&mc_eid=a2f060beda).** The GEAR UP Alumni Association is offering $500 scholarships to 25 GEAR UP high school seniors who will be entering a postsecondary education this fall. Students must be part of a GEAR UP program and provide proof of acceptance / enrollment at a higher education institution. Students who need support to pay for various fees are encouraged to apply. Due Apr. 7.
* [**Get Schooled’s Resilient Roots $2000 Scholarship**](https://getschooled.com/resilient-roots-scholarship/). For HS seniors/Class of 2024. The Resilient Roots scholarship celebrates young adults like you! The last 4 years have been a whirlwind of change, but you've demonstrated great strength and adaptability through it all. To apply, share an experience that has helped you grow resilient roots and how that resilience will help you achieve your future goals! Due Apr. 15.
* [**ETV Program is Accepting 2024-2025 Applications**](https://www.dcyf.wa.gov/services/foster-youth/etv)**.** Do you know students experiencing foster care who are planning to enroll in an accredited college, university, technical, vocational, or dual credit high school program? The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program offers financial assistance to eligible youth (up to $5,000 per academic year and $2,000 for dual credit)! To learn more about the program, eligibility, and to apply for the 2024–2025 school year, please visit the [ETV webpage](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9..i7d7ljqeGXFD69N_8KuRZPGSSmRaIK0LGY5_52yFGIM/s/421506233/br/238756012150-l) or feel free to email [ETVWash@dcyf.wa.gov](mailto:ETVWash@dcyf.wa.gov) with questions. To meet the priority deadline, apply by Apr. 30. All applications received after Apr. 30 will be awarded on a funds available basis.
* [**Ebey’s Landing National Historical Reserve.**](https://preservewa.org/programs/youth-heritage-project/) (Whidbey Island) Applications are currently open for student attendees and teacher/mentors. The application deadlines are May 17 for students and April 26 for teacher/mentors. Students will explore topics related to maritime heritage and the impact of climate change on the preservation of historic and cultural resources. There will be opportunities to engage in hands-on activities to help conservation efforts, visit historic sites throughout the Reserve, learn about co-management of cultural resources, and to better understand this historic area. July 16-19.
* [**National First-Generation Recognition Program**](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/communities-events/national-recognition-programs). From College Board. For HS students whose parent(s) does not have a bachelor’s degree or has some education that is less than a bachelor’s degree. Due Jun. 14.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [National Institutes of Health (NIH) Undergraduate Scholarship Program](https://www.training.nih.gov/programs/ugsp) | For students from disadvantaged backgrounds who are committed to careers in biomedical, behavioral, and social science health-related research. Must be accepted to an accredited 4-year institution. Up to $20,000 per year. Renewable for 4 years. | 3/29 |
| [National Federation of the Blind Scholarship Program](https://nfb.org/scholarships) | ($3,000-$12,000) – For blind scholars. All scholarships awarded are based on academic excellence, community service, and leadership. | 3/31 |
| [LULAC National Scholarship Fund](https://www.lnesc.org/scholarships/lulac/) | Designed to help youth in underserved communities make the dream of college enrollment a reality. | 3/31 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest - Summer Issue](https://www.justpoetry.org/scholarships.html) | Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to $500. | 3/31 |
| [AFA Teens Scholarship](https://alzfdn.org/young-leaders-of-afa/alzheimers-awareness-scholarship/) | This Alzheimer’s Awareness College Scholarship Essay Contest is an annual competition for college-bound HS seniors. The grand prize winner receives $5,000, with additional prizes awarded for runners-up. | 4/1 |
| [Davis-Putter Scholarship Fund](http://www.davisputter.org/apply/apply-for-scholarships/) | (Up to $15,000 per Year) - These need-based scholarships are awarded to students who can do academic work at the college or university level or are enrolled in a trade or technical program and who are active in the progressive movement. | 4/1 |
| [STEM Stars Actuarial Scholarship Program](https://www.actuarialfoundation.org/scholarships/) | ($20,000). The STEM Stars Actuarial Scholars Program was created to help increase diversity in the actuarial profession. | 4/1 |
| [American Foreign Service Association National HS Essay Contest](http://www.afsa.org/essay_contest.aspx) | For 9-12th graders. Must submit an essay related to Foreign Service. The winner receives $2,500 a trip to Washington, D.C. to meet the Secretary of State, and full tuition for a Semester at Sea educational voyage. | 4/1 |
| [The USDA 1994 Tribal Scholars Program](https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1994-program) | The program provides full tuition, employment, employee benefits, fees, books, and room and board each year for up to 4 years to selected students pursuing a bachelor’s degree in agriculture, food science, natural resource science, or a related academic discipline at one of 35 federally recognized tribal colleges and universities. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. | 4/10 |
| [KMR Group Foundation](http://kmrgrp.com/?page_id=2722) | ($1,000-$3,500) For HS seniors graduating in Southwest Washington. Applicant must be currently enrolled or will be enrolled in Clark College, Lower Columbia College, or Mt. Hood Community College. | 4/12 |
| [USDA/1890 National Scholars Program](https://www.usda.gov/partnerships/1890NationalScholars) | Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of the 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition, as well as room and board, for the term of the scholarship. The scholarship may be renewed each year, contingent upon satisfactory academic performance and normal progress toward the bachelor's degree. | 4/15 |
| [Gloria Barron Prize for Young Heroes](http://www.barronprize.org/) | ($10,000) - Honoring outstanding young leaders (ages 8-18) currently working on an inspiring service project or have done so within the past 12 months. Student needs to be working as an individual to lead their service work. The Barron Prize does not accept applications from large groups of young people. | 4/15 |
| [Incight Scholarship](https://www.incight.org/scholarship) | ($500-$2,500) - Incight awards up to one hundred scholarships to students with disabilities, who have demonstrated outstanding merit in giving back to the community and overcoming obstacles to pursue higher education. These scholarships range in value from $500 to $2,500. Open to students who are residents of OR, WA, or CA. | 4/15 |
| [LEAP Rise Above (aka LEAP1%) Scholarship Fund](https://seamar.org/scholarship-leap1.html) | The Latine Educational Achievement Project Scholarship Fund provides financial support for students who demonstrate a history of advocacy, responsibility, accountability, and perseverance; are go-getters, and have shown or have the strong potential to be contributors to their community. | 4/15 |
| [SEA-MAR - Farm Worker Scholarship](https://www.seamar.org/scholarship-farmworker.html) | For students who work or have worked OR whose parent/legal guardian is or has worked as a farm worker. | 4/15 |
| [WWIN Star Scholar (Formerly - Washington Women in Need Education Grant)](https://wwin.org/star-scholars/) | Each WWIN Star Scholar receives up to $5,000 per academic year and up to $20,000 over her undergraduate college career at the approved Washington college or university of her choice. For females 18 and older. | 4/18 |
| [Chin: Shui Kuen & Allen Chin Scholarship](http://asianpacificfund.org/information-for-student-applicants#banatao) | For incoming freshman or current, full-time undergraduate at a four-year college or university. Student or parent currently/formerly employed at an Asian-owned or Asian cuisine restaurant. Any ethnic heritage. Community advocacy and social justice work on behalf of Asian American, immigrant, gay and lesbian, and/or other progressive causes | 4/26 |
| [Washington Association of County Officials](http://www.countyofficials.org/247/How-to-Apply) | ($3,000) - The fund awards up to three $3,000 scholarships to eligible children of county employees and county elected officials in the following offices: assessors, auditors, clerks, coroners, medical examiners, prosecutors, sheriffs, and treasurers. Recipients must be full-time students in a baccalaureate degree, associate degree, or vocational/technical certification program. | 4/30 |
| [All About Education Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/all-about-education-scholarship) | ($3,000) - In 250 words or less submit a response to the question: "How will a $3,000 scholarship for education make a difference in your life?" | 4/30 |
| [E-waste Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/ewaste-scholarship/) | ($1,000) - Complete the application form including a 140-character message about e-waste. 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 e-waste. | 4/30 |
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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. | | |