NEW-S & RESOURCES

May 24-June 4, 2021

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **Did You Know?**  In the past 10 years, federal student loan debt grew by [102 percent](https://www.cnbc.com/2020/12/22/us-student-debt-has-increased-by-more-than-100percent-over-past-10-years.html). |
| * GEAR UP Updates |
| * Virtual Student Recruitment and Outreach Events * Optional Professional Development |
| * Resources |
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# WASHINGTON STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* **Update:** [**WA’s Universities and College Implement Permanent Test (SAT/ACT) Optional Policies**](https://councilofpresidents.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Test_Optional_Statement.pdf). Learn about our public institutions’ decisions to move permanently to test-optional policies.
* **FYI:** [**Emergency Broadband Benefit Program**](https://getemergencybroadband.org/). Enrollment is now open. Qualifying households can receive a discount of up to $50/month on broadband service, or up to $75/month on qualifying Tribal lands. Students who received Pell Grants in the current award year are eligible. [Use this outreach toolkit](https://www.fcc.gov/emergency-broadband-benefit-outreach-toolkit) from the FCC to help spread the word to students and families Check out the [social media toolkit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1cglmRuhcuee4pFxhD50o6oEAcfLC8U0PTntxZ7mEC1M/edit) ([Spanish version)](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1qj-UKjOO2SYlhLAxihErpGwbEPB3vUpN_pay3FS2FpE/edit) to raise awareness of the EBB program.

## VIRTUAL STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* [**WA State GEAR UP: Virtual Campus Visit Series**](https://gearup.wa.gov/node/4410). View recorded virtual visits.
* [**Virtual Speaker Series: For High School Students**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWg-9DmEamIL785e8tz6YZul9dVf1Fpcp)**.** Includes a GEAR UP-hosted college application panel.
* **Virtual Event:** [**Undocumented Summit 2021: Celebrating and Amplifying Undocumented Joy**](https://depts.washington.edu/ecc/lwb/undocumented-summit-2021/). By UW. Jun. 17.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **Virtual Event:** [**NCAN's Spring Institute**](https://www.ncan.org/page/2021SpringInstitute). Jun. 2.
* **Virtual Office Hours:** [**WSAC Fin. Aid Wednesdays.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUkceyrrj4iGtI-HYOrRpF2J7SqNW0rT4_7) Jun. 2 or Jul. 7, 10 AM.
* **Virtual Event:** [**Redesigning College to Increase Equity in Persistence & Completion Rates**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_hAza5sSxRl-jTF5udOnavg). By Pave the Way. Jun. 10, 9 AM.
* **Virtual Event:** [**Undocumented Summit 2021: Celebrating and Amplifying Undocumented Joy**](https://depts.washington.edu/ecc/lwb/undocumented-summit-2021/). By UW. Jun. 17.
* **Virtual Event:** [**PNACAC FREE Summer College Tour**](https://www.pnacac.org/summer-college-tour)**.** Jun. 22-24.
* **Webinar:** [**How Financial Education Fits into your Middle School CTE Classroom.**](https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6082317/FEPPP-How-Financial-Education-Fits-into-Middle-School-CTE-Courses) Hosted by FEPPP. Jun. 24, 4 PM
* **Virtual Event:** [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/ac-2021-savethedate)**.** Jul. 18-21.
* **Webinar:** [**Welcomed: Embracing Students, Families & Educators**](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_pt-PR5zgQA-OqE3llL-KZw). By Attendance Works. Aug. 4, 11 AM.
* **Virtual Event:** [**2021 MTSS Fest**](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMTA1MTcuNDA2MDM3NTEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovL3d3dy5rMTIud2EudXMvc3R1ZGVudC1zdWNjZXNzL3N1cHBvcnQtcHJvZ3JhbXMvbXVsdGktdGllcmVkLXN5c3RlbS1zdXBwb3J0cy1tdHNzL210c3MtZXZlbnRzIn0.y9sCsIcGOQ4GrT0jvXRHMBDHJEze4_fnEDEhfiPaQlg/s/421506233/br/106488949644-l). By OSPI with support from Kaiser Permanente and Northwest PBIS. Aug 12.
* **Virtual Event:** [**The Fall Counselor Workshops**](https://www.wa-council.org/). By WCHSCR/The Washington Council. Sept. 10, Sept. 14, or Sept. 16.
* **Webinar:** [**Fully Present: Leveraging Data to Ensure Ongoing Success.**](https://zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2bnjU-8KQZuwvLW2nHahQw) By Attendance Works. Sept. 29, 11 AM.
* **Virtual Event:** [**NCAN 2021 National Conference**](https://www.ncan.org/page/2021Conference)**.** Oct. 5-7.

# RESOURCES

* *Download Summer!* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters)**.** Monthly family newsletters with college readiness information for students by grade-level (7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12). These newsletter templates come pre-loaded with info and areas to customize and add your events and contact information to personalize for your school! *Available in English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.*
* [**Free College Admissions Resources**](https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/college-admissions-assistance-how-to-find-free-resources). No-cost resources (From NCAN member organizations) for college admissions assistance extend to advising, test prep, finding scholarships and more.
* [**Plan Your Future**](https://wsac.wa.gov/actionplan)**.** Find a wealth of information about financial aid, college, and career education in WA.
* [**College & Career Compass.**](https://compass.wsac.wa.gov/) Help students explore post high school options in WA.
* [**Washington State Student Loan Education Site**](https://www.studentloaned.wa.gov/)**.** From WSAC.Find modules to help make informed decisions.

# IN THE NEWS

* [**Virtual Schooling Has Been A Challenge.**](https://www.seattletimes.com/education-lab/virtual-schooling-has-been-a-challenge-but-that-doesnt-mean-we-cant-learn-anything-from-it) That doesn’t mean we can’t learn anything from it.
* [**Through Ethnic Studies, Schools Push to Include Marginalized Perspectives**](https://www.edutopia.org/article/through-ethnic-studies-schools-push-include-marginalized-perspectives)**.** Ethnic studies proponents say K–12 curriculum has remained largely Eurocentric and disconnected from the growing population of students of color in the U.S.
* [**Reimagine Education Starting This Summer**](https://educationnorthwest.org/news/reimagine-education-starting-summer)**.** What lessons can we bring from our COVID year to reinvent education and emerge stronger than before?
* [**Ma’Khia Bryant’s Story Reveals Flaws In Foster Care System**](https://imprintnews.org/opinion/makhia-bryants-story-reveals-flaws-in-foster-care-system/54943)**.** The 16-year-old’s death is a reminder to the foster care system: Before placing children with strangers, we must exhaust all other options.
* [**Is It Time To Rethink The Value Of College?**](file:///\\Vader\AgencyFiles\GEARUP\Grant%20IV\Weekly%20Bulletins\x.com\policy-and-politics\21279216\higher-education-college-america-student-debt) Higher education may not be doomed, but it’s in trouble.
* [**Supporting Rural Oregon Students in High School and Beyond**](https://educationnorthwest.org/news/supporting-rural-oregon-students-high-school-and-beyond). Rural students are less likely to enroll in college in the first place, more likely to drop out or otherwise leave college, and less likely to graduate.
* [**The Student Debt Dilemma**](https://medium.com/georgetown-cew/the-student-debt-dilemma-6db2f56039eb). The aggregate outstanding student loan debt in the United States reached $1.7 trillion this year.
* [**‘Amazing and Very Challenging’: More Educators Rethink Grading**](https://www.nea.org/advocating-for-change/new-from-nea/amazing-and-very-challenging-more-educators-rethink-grading). Believing traditional grading is inaccurate and inequitable, more teachers are changing how they evaluate their students’ learning.
* [**Reluctant To Return?**](https://www.ccdaily.com/2021/05/reluctant-to-return) A [new report](https://cci.stradaeducation.org/pv-release-may-19-2021-back-to-class/) by the Strada Education Network shows that many adults who planned to further their education have changed or dropped those plans over the course of the pandemic.
* [**It’s Complicated: Can Schools Require COVID Vaccines?**](https://districtadministration.com/schools-require-covid-vaccines-immunizations) One superintendent says vaccines will 'absolutely' be required as other states downplay potential mandates
* [**How to Support College Students Experiencing Homelessness during the COVID-19 Pandemic and Beyond**](https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/how-support-college-students-experiencing-homelessness-during-covid-19-pandemic-and-beyond). One in seven reported they either experienced homelessness or lacked a stable living situation.

# SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

*Find more opportunities at:* [*https://gearup.wa.gov/resources/scholarships*](https://gearup.wa.gov/resources/scholarships) *and* [*our list of scholarship search engines and databases*](https://gearup.wa.gov/node/3239)*.*

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| *Have* Scholarship | | Brief Description | Due | |
| [**WA State Opportunity Scholarships: Career &Technical Scholarship**](https://www.waopportunityscholarship.org/students/applicants/cts/) | For those pursuing high-demand trade, STEM, and health care occupations. To be eligible, scholars must enroll in an approved program, such as welding, manufacturing, or it, at one of WAs 34 community and technical colleges. Scholars are eligible to receive up to $1,500 each quarter for the duration of their associate degree, certificate, or apprenticeship program. These scholarship funds are flexible and can be used to cover tuition, fees, and other costs of attendance such as housing, transportation, food and more. | | | 6/6 |
| [**Navigate Your Future Scholarship**](http://www.nata.aero/Scholarships/Navigate-Your-Future-Scholarship.aspx) | For HS graduates continuing his or her education in the aviation industry. | | | 6/25 |
| [**Do-Over Scholarship**](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/do-over-scholarship) | In 250 words or less submit a response to the question: "If you could get one 'do-over' in life, what would it be and why?" | | | 6/30 |
| [**Scholarship Poetry Contest - Fall Issue**](http://www.justpoetry.org/submissions) | Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to $500. | | | 6/30 |
| [**Stuck at Prom Scholarship Contest**](http://stuckatprom.com/) | Use your imagination to create Duck Tape prom fashions in either the “Dress” or “Tux” category for a chance to win $10,000! | | | 7/21 |
| [**ERCA Community Contribution Scholarship**](https://studentresearch.org/scholarship-application/) | For HS students who have recognized a need or problem in their community and have determined a way to address the issue. | | | 7/26 |
| [**Flavor of the Month Scholarship**](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/flavor-of-the-month-scholarship) | In 250 words or less submit a response to the question: If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why? | | | 7/31 |
| [**Make Me Laugh Scholarship**](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/make-me-laugh-scholarship) | In 250 words or less Describe an incident in your life, funny or embarrassing (fact or fiction), and make us laugh! | | | 8/31 |
| [**We the Future Contest**](http://constitutingamerica.org/downloads.php) | Open to K-12 students, college students, law school students, grad students, adults 25 years of age and older, and seniors 65 years of age and older. Each age group has different requirements, so applicants should visit website for details. Amount varies. | | | 9/17 |
| [**Don’t Text and Drive Scholarship**](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship) | ($1,000) - Write a 140-character statement that completes this sentence: I pledge to not text and drive because… | | | 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 of less submit an online written response to the question: If you could say one thing to the entire world at once, what would it be and why? | | | 9/30 |

[**SUBSCRIBE**](mailto:bethk@wsac.wa.gov?subject=Please%20subscribe%20me%20to%20the%20weekly%20bulletin.%20) **|** [**UNSUBSCRIBE**](mailto:bethk@wsac.wa.gov?subject=Please%20remove%20me%20from%20the%20weekly%20bulletin.%20)

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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, and you should not assume endorsement by these entities.*