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## Did You Know?

WA high school seniors and juniors can sign up for [OtterBot](#), a free texting service that sends financial aid and college navigation info and reminders to students. Students can access OtterBot via text message 24 hours a day, seven days a week by texting "Hi Otter" to 360-928-7281.

## WA STATE GEAR UP UPDATES

- **Reminder:** Please remember to document all college applications in the Portal. Questions? Contact [Kelly K.](#)
- **Download December:** [College Knowledge Family Newsletters](#). Monthly family newsletters with college readiness information for students by grade level (7-12). They come pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! Available in *English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese*.
- **Now Accepting Proposals:** [2023 NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference](#). Review the how-to guide to submitting a successful proposal. Due Dec. 15.
- **Flash Sale!** [First Ever GEAR UP Lunch & Learn PD Event](#). Our partner, Seeds Training, has partnered with the GEAR UP Alumni Association (GUALA) to introduce a series of value-packed professional development sessions for the GEAR UP Community. See link for details. All proceeds go to the GUALA.

## STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

- **BigFuture Scholarships Week:** [Find Your Passion. Win Big.](#) Find a career that matches your interests and passions! Connect with professionals. Learn how exploring careers on BigFuture can qualify you for \$500-\$40,000 scholarships. Dec. 5, 4 PM.
- **BigFuture Scholarships Week:** [Your College. Your Way.](#) Your dream school is out there. We want to help you find it. Join to connect with college reps who are ready to answer your questions. Learn how searching for colleges on BigFuture can qualify you for \$500-\$40,000 scholarships. Dec. 6, 4 PM.
- **BigFuture Scholarships Week:** [Securing the Bag.](#) You've got questions about scholarships. Get answers directly from the experts. Secure the bag, and don't let money hold you back. Dec. 8, 4 PM.

## OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- [The Sapsik'walá \(Teacher\) Education Program at the University of Oregon](#). A rigorous, 12-month graduate-level program that prepares future Indigenous/Native educators. Currently accepting applications for their next cohort that begins in June 2023.
- [PNACAC Webinar Series: College Counseling 101](#). FREE to PNACAC members. Dates thru April.
- [PESB Virtual Interactive Social Emotional Learning \(SEL\) Series](#). Open to all educators. Free clock hours. See link for dates.
- **Virtual Event:** [Federal Student Aid Training Conference](#). Free and open to all. Read NCAN's session recommendations including FAFSA changes that college access and success program personnel could benefit from. Nov. 29-Dec. 2.
- **Virtual Event:** [ASCA Conference](#). Join other school counseling professionals for two days of inspirational keynote sessions, informative breakout sessions, in-depth looks at hot topics in the school counseling profession, and networking opportunities. Watch live or any time through March 3, and earn up to 3 CEUs/30 Contact Hours. [One](#) and [two](#) graduate credits are also available. Dec. 1-2.
- **Open Lab:** [Serving Rural Communities](#). Hosted by NCCEP. Dec. 8, 10 AM.
- [AVID National Conference](#). Dec. 8-10, Orlando, FL.
- **Webinar:** [Debt Slapped - Spanish](#). Hosted by CENTS. Learn about the Debt Slapped curriculum, how to use it, and how to have a representative present to your students (remotely or in person). For middle and high school educators. Dec. 8, 4 PM.
- **Virtual Event:** [NCCEP's Capacity-Building Workshop \(CBW\)](#). Feb. 13-15.
- **2023 SuperACAC Conference.** *Now offering scholarships for counselors and college admission professionals.* [Apply by Dec. 1.](#) Spokane, Apr. 17-19.
- [The Washington Passport Network Passport to Careers State Conference](#). SeaTac, May 23-24.

## RESOURCES

- **WAGU Featured Resource:** [Financial Aid & Unaccompanied Homeless Youth](#). This handout accompanies the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook, which guides students through navigating college admissions and financial aid.
- **New! WCG Informational Videos In Seven Languages!** Check out the [Financial Aid Toolkit](#) for educators & advocates. View [Learning Outcomes and Guiding Questions](#).
- **Updated!** [OSPI's Graduation Webpage](#). Designed to support school support in helping students graduate with a diploma and a plan for a meaningful first step after high school. Find the newly updated *Class of 2023 Graduation Toolkit, Graduation Pathways Quick Reference one-pager* and *updated HSBP Template*.

- [Hour of Code 2022](#). The countdown is on! Just one week until #HourOfCode 2022! [New activities and new songs in Dance Party](#). NASA, Beyoncé, and Harry Styles join the fun, plus other ways to explore, play, and create during CSEdWeek.

## IN THE NEWS

- [What Schools Can Do to Ease Students' Anxiety](#). Educators and researchers offer three tips.
- [The Path to a Career Could Start in Middle School](#). A growing number of school districts are starting career education early.
- [What Superintendents Say They Need More of](#). Almost all said better data would help them make decisions.
- [University Of Idaho Students Return To Campus](#). It's unclear how many students will actually come back to Moscow.
- [Indigenous Disability Awareness Month](#). A conversation with Dr. Rheanna Robinson and Lisa Smith.
- [Thousands Of U.S. Schools Fail To Count Homeless Students](#). In Washington, just over 30,000 students are identified.
- [Bills Targeting Trans Youth Are Growing More Common](#). They are radically reshaping lives.
- [Tribal Universities and on-Campus Childcare](#). Tribal colleges are twice as likely to provide childcare on campus.
- [Higher Ed Organizations Press for Dreamer Deal](#). The push to have a 'Dreamer' bill passed during the lame duck term.
- [Direct Admissions](#). How Students Can Be Accepted To College Without Ever Applying.
- [Nursing Apprenticeships In Rural Areas](#). Finding nurses is a nationwide issue, but it's especially difficult in rural America.
- [Impacts of Foster Care Plus the Experience of an Incarcerated Parent](#). A look at the mental health toll.
- [Apprenticeships Help Tear Down Barriers For Women](#). Women's participation provides family-supporting wages.
- [Shop Class Sometimes Boosts Going To College](#). Vocational programs have changed a lot.
- [3 Ways K-12 Teachers & Counselors Can Support First-Generation College Students](#). Educators need to talk with students about what happens after college acceptance letters. "OK, you got in. Now what?"
- [Debunking Common Myths About Gender-Affirming Care For Youth](#). In 2022, 16 states have proposed legislation that would restrict access to gender-affirming care for patients under the age of 18.

## SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

Find more opportunities at: <https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/scholarships> and [our list of scholarship search engines and databases](#).

- [BigFuture Scholarships](#). All juniors: Make yourself eligible for \$500 and \$40,000 scholarships each month. Earn entries in monthly drawings for scholarships by completing steps to plan for college.
- [National Honor Society Scholarship](#). Up to \$25,000 for high school seniors who are members in good standing of an affiliated National Honor Society chapter. Due Nov. 30.
- [Michelle Obama Award for Memoir](#). This award will grant one young, promising writer a college scholarship of \$10,000 and the opportunity to learn more about the publishing industry! For current high school seniors who plan to attend a two-year or four-year college.
- [2023 Community Health Professions Academy Program \(CHPA\)](#). For 8th-12th graders. Due Dec. 4.

Scholarship	Brief Description	Due
<a href="#">Education Matters</a>	(\$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 US students. Must be 14 years of age or older to apply. Must be a legal US resident. Must reside in the 50 United States or the District of Columbia.	11/30
<a href="#">Dell Scholars Program</a>	(\$20,000) - The Dell Scholars Program emphasizes a student's determination to succeed more than just academic record and test scores. Our GPA requirement is 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. Our scholars have shown grit, potential, and ambition in their quest for a college education.	12/1
<a href="#">Generation Google Scholarship</a>	The Generation Google Scholarship was established to help aspiring students pursuing computer science degrees excel in technology and become leaders in the field. Selected students will receive \$10,000. Google Scholarship will be awarded based on the strength of each candidate's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, demonstrated leadership, and academic performance.	12/10
<a href="#">Dirk Derrick Car &amp; Truck Accident Injury Scholarship</a>	\$1,000 - The Dirk Derrick Car & Truck Accident Injury Scholarship is an award for any current or soon-to-be undergraduate student in the United States who has had their life altered due to an injury from a car or truck accident, be it their injury that of a loved one, or an influential individual. The Dirk Derrick Scholarship has a quick submission process. Applicants will be judged on their ability to convey an auto	12/15

	accident's lasting effect on their life and their journey to overcome those challenges.	
<a href="#">Apply for the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow Contest.</a>	Public school teachers nationwide can help their school win a share of \$2M* in Samsung technology by entering the Samsung Solve for Tomorrow contest. Developing projects that apply STEAM subjects to improve your local community can empower your students to learn creative problem-solving and critical thinking skills.	12/21
<a href="#">Scholarship Poetry Contest - Spring Issue</a>	Open to all US HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to \$500.	12/31
<a href="#">Top Ten List Scholarship</a>	(\$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
<a href="#">Unigo \$10K Scholarship</a>	(\$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
<a href="#">NASA Student Art Contest</a>	Theme differs each year - Open to K12 students.	12/31
<a href="#">Wells Fargo Scholarship for Undergraduates</a>	(Up to \$5,000) - For American Indian and Alaska Native students with a current GPA of 2.7 or higher with up to \$5,000 for one year of study in any chosen major at any accredited institution in the United States.	12/31
<a href="#">GE-Reagan Foundation Scholarship</a>	For college-bound students who demonstrate exemplary leadership, drive, integrity, and citizenship with financial assistance to pursue higher education. \$10,000 in renewable scholarships - up to \$40,000 total - for tuition, school fees, books, supplies, and on-campus room and board.	1/5
<a href="#">Pride Foundation Scholarship</a>	For LGBTQ+ student and allies. Applicants must be pursuing postsecondary education in the coming 2022-2023 school year (including community college, four-year public or private college or university, certificate programs, vocational/technical/trade programs, law school, medical/dental/veterinary school, or graduate education).	1/6
<a href="#">Ron Brown Scholar Program</a>	The Ron Brown Scholar Program annually awards 20 or more college scholarships for \$40,000 to extraordinary African American high school seniors. Students must attend a four-year accredited college or university within the United States.	1/9
<a href="#">Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship Award</a>	(\$35,000) - The JRF scholarship is awarded to outstanding high school graduates who plan to earn a baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year college or university.	1/11
<a href="#">Bezos Scholars Program</a>	Successful applicants are public high school juniors and a staff person from their school that serves as their educator and participates fully in the program. Successful applicants have a strong drive and commitment to their education and demonstrate maturity, curiosity, resilience, and leadership.	1/12
<a href="#">FFA Scholarships</a>	Over 1,000 scholarships w/ just one application available to FFA members.	1/12
<a href="#">GSBA Scholarship Fund</a>	(\$8,000) - The average annual award amount for each scholar is \$8,000. In addition, GSBA invests in our scholars' leadership development through annual programs and workshops.	1/13
<a href="#">Point Foundation: College Scholarships for LGBT Students</a>	For HS seniors. No citizenship required. History of leadership &/or allyship in issues that affect the LGBT/Queer community. Must plan to continue this leadership/allyship in the future. No specific GPA but seeking candidates w/ high academic performance.	1/18
<a href="#">APIASF Scholarship Program</a>	(\$2,500-\$20,000) - APIA Scholars provides scholarships to underserved APIA students with a particular focus on those who: Live at or below the poverty level or are otherwise of low socioeconomic status; Are the first in their families to attend college; Are representative of the APIA community's diversity (geographically and ethnically), especially those ethnicities that have been underrepresented on college campuses due to limited access and opportunity; and have placed a strong emphasis on community service, leadership, and solid academic achievement.	1/19

<a href="#">The Hamilton Award</a>	The Hamilton Award recognizes outstanding HS juniors for their academic, personal, and service achievements. It selects students for the Hamilton Leaders Academy – a three-year, no-student-cost program that helps students get into college, transition to college, succeed while in college, and transition to the post-college world.	1/25
<a href="#">The UW DO-IT Scholars Program</a>	DO-IT Scholars are Washington State HS students with disabilities planning to continue their education after graduation. Scholars prepare for their transition to college—which includes exploring careers, independence, self-advocacy, and leadership. Open to HS sophomores or juniors.	1/30
<a href="#">USDA/1890 National Scholars Program</a>	Scholarships are awarded annually and must be used at one of 1890 Historically Black Land-Grant Universities. Each award provides full tuition and room and board for the term of the scholarship. The scholarship may be renewed each year.	1/31
<a href="#">Governor's Scholarship for Foster Youth</a>	(\$2,000-\$4,000) – For youth who have been in foster care to continue their education and earn a college degree.	1/31
<a href="#">Leadership 1000 Scholarship</a>	For HS seniors attending eligible high schools and planning to enroll in a WA 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.	1/31
<a href="#">The American Legion National HS Oratorical Contest Scholarship</a>	Aims to develop a deeper knowledge and appreciation of the Constitution of the United States on the part of high school students. Washington State will award \$5,000 in scholarships to the top 4 finishers.	1/31
<a href="#">Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Scholarship</a>	Selected applicants for the Navy ROTC Scholarship Program are awarded scholarships through a highly competitive national selection process and receive full tuition, books stipend, educational fees, and other financial benefits at many of the country's leading colleges and universities. Upon graduation, midshipmen are commissioned as officers in the unrestricted line Naval Reserve or Marine Corps Reserve.	1/31

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