WEEKLY BULLETIN

**October 30- November 3, 2023**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**  WA high school seniors and juniors can sign up for [OtterBot](https://wsac.wa.gov/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. |
| * 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 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.*
* **Important FAFSA/WASFA Changes:** School counselors and other advocates should adjust financial aid outreach messaging and timelines to address the changes. WSAC offers [training for your staff](https://wsac.wa.gov/aim-higher-training) and helpful [resources and outreach materials](https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign).

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* [**12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information and Filing Events.**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.42fu3w63mb46) Join one of the events listed below to learn more and get help.  Please note, that most events are offered virtually. Spanish events are available. Dates vary throughout fall/winter.
* [**CASHE Conference.**](https://cashe.wsu.edu/) Children of Aztlan Sharing Higher Education (CASHE) is a leadership conference by [MECHA de WSU](https://wsu.presence.io/organization/mecha) that encourages HS students of all Chicanx/Latinx backgrounds to pursue higher education. *Register by Nov 4*. Nov. 10-12, WSU Pullman.
* [**NACAC's November Virtual College Fair**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**.** Get connected with colleges and universities…without leaving home! Nov. 12.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **[2023 Fall Counselor Workshop Slide Decks](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMzIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vZG9jcy5nb29nbGUuY29tL3ByZXNlbnRhdGlvbi9kLzF2b0VVdVREZmdWNnpERENoLUFmNC1hOTZqSENpV183MzJkQ25PUjY5Y0NvL2VkaXQ_dXNwPXNoYXJpbmciLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMwOTI1LjgzMDk4NjExIn0.PXra4G0BU-F4g41HbpY0q21BtcwYPQjCV2VU6nm_0Wg/s/421506233/br/226759760863-l" \t "_blank).** Find the presentations from the Fall Counselor Workshops.
* [**OSPI-WSAC Webinar Series.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wpx7sGYESgqG7gpbNsa5Qw#/registration) See the link for topics and dates.
  + - * [**PNACAC College Counseling 101 Sessions.**](https://www.pnacac.org/webinars) Open to school/college counselors, consultants, CBOs, career center specialists, transfer center coordinators, and other PNACAC members working with secondary school or transfer-seeking students. *Membership is free for individuals from public school communities.* See the link for details.
* **Webinar:** [**Tier II Solutions for Student Well-Being**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_df24F_6ETxaOIqVcviziiw#/registration). By OSPI GATE. Nov. 8, 10 AM.
  + - * **Webinar:** [**Did the Class of 2022 rebound? Exploring NSC’s HS Benchmarks Report 2023.**](https://ncan-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_I3IIN3ooQT691MdGgQhd5A#/registration) By NCAN and NSC. Free and open to the public. Nov. 9, 9 AM.
      * **Virtual:** [**Discussion Lab: Communicating with Families**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2023/11-9disclab-commwfam). By NCCEP. Nov. 9, 11 AM.
      * [**CASHE Conference.**](https://cashe.wsu.edu/)Children of Aztlan Sharing Higher Education (CASHE) is a leadership conference by [MECHA de WSU](https://wsu.presence.io/organization/mecha) that encourages HS students of all Chicanx/Latinx backgrounds to pursue higher education. Register by Nov 4. Nov. 10-12, WSU Pullman.
      * **Webinar:** [**Get FREE Virtual Training on the Better FAFSA.**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1766243&group=) By NCAN. Nov. 20, 10 AM.
      * **Virtual:** [**National GEAR UP Academy**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2024ngua)**.** By NCCEP. Feb 12- 15.
* [**2024 WSCA Conference.**](https://wscaconference.org/) Mar. 6-8, SeaTac.

# RESOURCES

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Virtual Speaker Series.**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWg-9DmEamIL785e8tz6YZul9dVf1Fpcp) Help students explore pathways in WA!
* [**Family Conversations Tool.**](https://readywa.org/families/pathway-planning/tool-family-conversations-about-the-future/)  From Ready WA. Guides conversations at your own pace, covering essential topics like students' interests, available support, and actionable steps. Can also support conversations in classrooms, during school club activities, and more. Available in English and Spanish with more languages coming soon.
* [**Financial Aid Advising Day: Unlock Money To Pay For Education After High School**.](https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign) Learn about the details and requirements of Financial Aid Advising Day, as well as the resources the 12th Year Campaign has to support schools.

# IN THE NEWS

* [Scholastic Reverses Controversial Decision To ‘Segregate’ Diverse Books](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/scholastic-reverses-controversial-decision-to-segregate-diverse-books/2023/10)
* [The Rise Of The Four-Day School Week](https://www.npr.org/2023/10/25/1197954439/four-day-school-week-pros-and-cons)
* [Reports Show More Oregon Students On Track To Graduate, But Attendance, College Advancement Are Down](https://www.opb.org/article/2023/10/26/more-oregon-students-graduate-but-attendance-college-advancement-down-reports-show/)
* [Kids Can Get Dental, Medical Care At This Local School Without Parents Taking Off Work](https://www.thenewstribune.com/news/local/community/puyallup-herald/ph-news/article280795425.html)
* [Parents Of Special Ed Students Who Don’t Speak English Face Another Hurdle](https://www.yakimaherald.com/news/northwest/parents-of-special-ed-students-who-don-t-speak-english-face-another-hurdle/article_9c09c79c-16e2-5311-9275-8063ea827b29.html)
* [An Urgent Message To School Leaders: Your Arab And Muslim Students Need You](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-an-urgent-message-to-school-leaders-your-arab-and-muslim-students-need-you/2023/10)
* [Tourniquets, Gauze Now In Hundreds Of Gig Harbor Classrooms To Prepare For School Shootings](https://www.king5.com/article/news/education/tourniquets-gauze-now-ingig-harbor-classrooms-treat-wounds-school-shootings-gun-violence-penisula-school-districts/281-fa90e0e4-763c-445a-9a24-0bdefc4917cd)
* [Controversial Moms For Liberty Group Fields Candidates For Local School Board Races](https://www.theolympian.com/news/local/article277171373.html)
* [New Study Brings Home The Danger Of Fentanyl For WA Residents](https://crosscut.com/news/2023/10/new-study-brings-home-danger-fentanyl-wa-residents)
* [Sequim Teen To Sing At World Series](https://www.sequimgazette.com/news/sequim-teen-to-sing-at-world-series/)
* [Career-Connected Learning Leads To Student Success](https://www.seattletimes.com/sponsored/career-connected-learning-leads-to-student-success" \t "_top)
* [Stacking Credentials – Does It Pay Off For Students From Low-Income Backgrounds?](https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/blogs/beyond-transfer/2023/08/31/do-stackable-credentials-pay-low-income-students" \t "_top)
* [Spokane Tech Hub One Step Closer To Gaining Federal Funds To Build Aerospace Manufacturing Center](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2023/oct/23/spokane-tech-hub-one-step-closer-to-reality/)
* [The Ed & Dollie Lynch Fund Joins The Endeavour Fund To Support New Trades Facility For Vancouver Public Schools](https://www.vbjusa.com/news/top-stories/the-ed-dollie-lynch-fund-joins-the-endeavour-fund-to-support-new-trades-facility-for-vancouver-public-schools/)
* [Discussing The Israel-Hamas War With Students Isn't Easy. It Shouldn't Be](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/opinion-discussing-the-israel-hamas-war-with-students-isnt-easy-it-shouldnt-be/2023/10)
* [5 Ways Teachers Can Help Students Overcome ‘Math Trauma](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/5-ways-teachers-can-help-students-overcome-math-trauma/2023/10)’
* [Biden Is Trying A New Path To Student Loan Forgiveness. Here’s Who Could Benefit](https://www.cnn.com/2023/10/30/politics/biden-student-loan-forgiveness/index.html)

**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.
* [**Washington State Volunteer Service Awards.**](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vc2VydmV3YXNoaW5ndG9uLndhLmdvdi9zaXRlcy9kZWZhdWx0L2ZpbGVzL3B1YmxpYy8yMDIzX25vbWluYXRpb25ndWlkZWxpbmVzX3dzdnNhX2ZpbmFsLnBkZj91dG1fbWVkaXVtPWVtYWlsJnV0bV9zb3VyY2U9Z292ZGVsaXZlcnkiLCJidWxsZXRpbl9pZCI6IjIwMjMxMDAyLjgzNDg4MjYxIn0.YjLDma0vDSvnxD-ZUPbAQ78S9Y5-hqOA_iF4xpys7EA/s/860227171/br/227262893579-l) Honor the many acts of kindness individuals, families, service groups and organizations perform in communities across the state of Washington. Due Dec. 22.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [Elks Most Valuable Student Competition](http://www.elks.org/ENF/scholars/mvs.cfm) | Ranging from $1,000 per year to $12,500 per year. For students pursuing a 4-year degree, on a full-time basis. | 11/13 |
| [Odenza Marketing Group Scholarship](http://www.odenzascholarships.com/awards/8/eligibility_odenza_marketing_group_scholarship.phphttp:/www.odenzascholarships.com/) | ($500) Must submit 2 small essays, one related to travel, & the other on why they deserve a scholarship. Must be 16-25, w/ 2.5 GPA or greater. US citizenship is required. | 11/15 |
| [10 Words or Less Scholarship](https://www.studentscholarships.org/easy.php#sthash.2vdhoRcz.dpbs) | ($500) - In 10 words or less, say why you deserve the scholarship. | 11/15 |
| [NCWIT Award for Aspirations in Computing](https://www.aspirations.org/award-programs/apply-for-an-award) | For 9th-12th graders who self-identify as women, genderqueer, or non-binary for their computing-related achievements and interests and encourages them to pursue their passions. | 11/20 |
| [SchoolHouse Connection Youth Leadership and Scholarship Program](https://www.schoolhouseconnection.org/youth-leadership/scholarship-program/) | For youth who have experienced homelessness. Assists with financial aid processes, mental health advocacy and referrals, professional legal advocacy and referrals, and assistance in locating and establishing local contacts for general support and services. Undocumented students who meet these criteria are eligible. | 11/24 |
| [ACT SIX - Portland](http://www.actsix.org/nw/portland/) | (Full Tuition) - Act Six will award 14 of Portland-Salem's most promising community leaders full scholarships worth up to $200,000 to two partner colleges: George Fox University and Warner Pacific College. Act Six scholars are chosen through a rigorous, highly competitive, three-phase selection process that spans four months. | 11/28 |
| [ACT SIX - Tacoma-Seattle](http://www.actsix.org/nw/tacsea/) | (Full Tuition) - Act Six will award 18 of Tacoma-Seattle’s most promising urban leaders full scholarships worth up to $245,000 to five partner colleges: Gonzaga University, Northwest University, Pacific Lutheran University, St. Martin's University, and Whitworth University. Act Six scholars are chosen through a rigorous, highly competitive, three-phase selection process that spans four months. | 11/28 |
| [ACT SIX - Yakima Valley](http://www.actsix.org/nw/yakima/#toggle-id-1) | (Full Tuition) - Act Six will award 15 of Yakima Valley’s most promising community leaders full scholarships worth up to $240,000 to three partner colleges. ACT Six scholars are chosen through a rigorous, highly competitive, three-phase selection process that spans four months. | 11/28 |
| [Education Matters](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/education-matters-scholarship) | ($5,000) - In 250 words or less respond 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?" Must be 14 years of age or older. | 11/30 |
| [Dell Scholars Program](https://www.dellscholars.org/scholarship/) | ($20,000) – For low-income, highly motivated students who are better than their numbers indicate and demonstrate the drive to succeed despite personal obstacles. Winners have demonstrated grit, potential, and ambition in their quest for a college education. | 12/1 |
| [Point Foundation: The Point Flagship Scholarship](https://www.pointfoundation.org/point-apply/apply-now/) | Empower LGBTQ students who are earning their undergraduate, graduate, & doctoral degrees at accredited colleges in the US. | 12/5 |
| [Scholastic Art & Writing Awards Scholarships](https://www.artandwriting.org/scholarships/) | Teens in grades 7–12 (ages 13 and up) can apply in 28 categories of art and writing. | 12/7 |
| [Dirk Derrick Car & Truck Accident Injury Scholarship](https://www.derricklawfirm.com/library/scholarship.cfm) | $1,000 – For any current or soon-to-be undergraduate student 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. | 12/15 |
| [NASA Student Art Contest](https://artcontest.larc.nasa.gov/) | For students in grades K-12 to participate in the 2024 NASA Langley Art Contest, using the theme “Connect the Dots.” | 12/31 |
| [Top Ten List Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/top-ten-list-scholarship) | ($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 |
| [Unigo $10K Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/unigo-10k-scholarship) | ($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 |
| [Pride Foundation Scholarship](http://www.pridefoundation.org/what-we-do/scholarships/) | For current and future leaders LGBTQIA and straight ally community from Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, and Washington. | 1/6 |
| [Ron Brown Scholar Program](https://ronbrown.org/apply/ron-brown-scholarship/) | Awards 20 or more scholarships annually for $40,000 to extraordinary African American students must attend a four-year accredited college or university within the United States. | 1/9 |
| [APIASF Scholarship Program](http://www.apiasf.org/scholarship_apiasf.html) | ($2,500-$20,000) - Provides scholarships to underserved APIA students with a special 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. | 1/9 |
| [Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship](https://jackierobinson.org/scholarship/) | ($35,000) - Awarded to outstanding HS graduates who plan to earn a baccalaureate degree from an accredited four-year college or university. | 1/10 |
| [FFA Scholarships](https://www.ffa.org/scholarships) | Over 1,000 scholarships with/ just one application available to FFA members. | 1/11 |
| [GSBA Scholarship Fund](http://www.thegsba.org/scholarship-home) | ($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. | 1/12 |
| [Bezos Scholars Program](https://www.bezosscholars.org/apply) | For HS juniors. Successful applicants have a strong drive and commitment to their education and demonstrate maturity, curiosity, resilience, and leadership. | 1/24 |
| [The Hamilton Award](https://www.hamiltonscholars.org/apply/) | For HS juniors for their academic, personal, and service achievements. This three-year, no-student-cost program helps students get into college, transition to college, succeed while in college, and transition to the post-college world. | 1/26 |
| [Truman D. Picard Scholarship for Native Students](http://www.itcnet.org/about_us/scholarships.html) | Dedicated to the support of Native American students pursuing a higher education in Natural Resources. | 1/26 |
| [The UW DO-IT Scholars Program](http://www.washington.edu/doit/Programs/scholar.html) | For WA State HS students with disabilities planning to continue their education after they graduate. Scholars prepare for their transition to college—which includes exploring careers, independence, self-advocacy, and leadership. Is open to high school sophomores or juniors. | 1/30 |
| [cid:image003.jpg@01D341AB.22959DC0](http://www.facebook.com/gearupwa)[cid:image005.jpg@01D341AB.22959DC0](http://www.instagram.com/gearupwa)[cid:image015.jpg@01D341AF.8987B190](http://bit.ly/gearupwa) | | |
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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. | | |