WEEKLY BULLETIN

**October 16-20, 2023**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**  According to NCAN, **$3.75 billion** in Pell Grants went unclaimed in 2021. |
| * 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.
* [**NACAC College Fairs:**](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/) 10/24: Spokane.

# 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.
* [**NACAC College Fairs:**](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/) 10/24: Spokane.
* **Webinar:** [**Strategies to Support Transitions to Higher Ed**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/4416903892252/WN_oJqo1QBrSs20nn0g8aCDGA?emci=56c521e7-4847-ee11-a3f1-00224832eb73&emdi=7ecb087f-584e-ee11-a3f1-00224832e1ba&ceid=11625301#/registration) (Foster/Homeless). By SchoolHouse Connection. Oct. 20, 10 AM.
* [**GEAR UP West Conference.**](https://gearup.wa.gov/about/what-we-do/gear-west)Spokane, Oct. 22-24. **Update:** The [Conference Website](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fgearup.wa.gov%2Fgear-west&data=05%7C01%7CBethK%40wsac.wa.gov%7C80b80ec0ef3d427ce05f08dba7f6059a%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638288447342128760%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=9r21oL6OiZMe64emU4CLAqWWoy%2BWRJ8hgVYjeVUY0tU%3D&reserved=0) is Now LIVE! Find the most current version of the session list, keynote bios, and more. [Register and book your lodging](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fweb.cvent.com%2Fevent%2F76645d71-ab7f-4a37-a057-5437bf945442%2Fsummary&data=05%7C01%7CBethK%40wsac.wa.gov%7C80b80ec0ef3d427ce05f08dba7f6059a%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638288447342128760%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=xIGtlNRYKZexWIsZiwKBab3MAzbSemramFjBWXKJoGg%3D&reserved=0) now for the early bird rate!
* **Webinar:** [**Middle School College and Career Readiness**](https://pages2.act.org/ccrw-2023-webinars.html)**.** By ACT. Oct. 24, 9 AM.
* **Save the Date: 2024 WSCA Conference.** Mar. 6-8, SeaTac.

# RESOURCES

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Zombie Scholarship Activity.**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/zombie-apocalypse-scholarship-activity) Show students how scholarships are often scored. Have them read and score the submissions. Debrief and help students learn how to avoid common pitfalls. Based on an actual annual scholarship, due 10-31-23.
* [**Better FAFSA/WASFA flyers**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/183EkPYzq4kM3s8-f5FlUI6LBDDTXkfsQ/view)**.** Educators and advocates can conveniently email or print flyers for students and families and help spread the word. [(Print-Friendly Version)](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1o0-lCWfJ5nh0Z1jlVqYmL48G_CoE3B1t/view). To support this work, NCAN and uAspire developed a [state policy](https://www.ncan.org/news/news.asp?id=643409) containing action steps, state-specific information, strategies, and templates to help make it easier to transition to the new FAFSA form and process. The materials [contained here](https://www.ncan.org/page/better-FAFSA-training-toolkiT) will be helpful if you are providing training in your state.
* [**Tools to Help Make Students’ College Application Journeys Successful.**](https://equityinlearning.act.org/acac/resources/) Students who have finished their college applications may still have some steps to follow up on to ensure they are properly considered. Check out the American College Application Campaign’s guide to the application process, share your own college journey with the #IApplied hashtag, and access resources that will help both during and after the application process.

# IN THE NEWS

* [‘We Work Just As Hard’: Everett Paraeducators Rally For Fair Wages](https://www.heraldnet.com/news/we-work-just-as-hard-everett-paraeducators-rally-for-fair-wages/)
* [Lauded Teen Anxiety Doc To Stream Free In Honor Of Mental Health Screening Month](https://www.the74million.org/article/anxious-nation-filmmakers-announce-free-streaming-of-teen-anxiety-documentary-in-honor-of-national-mental-health-screening-month/)
* [Why America Has A Youth Mental Health Crisis, And How Schools Can Help](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/why-america-has-a-youth-mental-health-crisis-and-how-schools-can-help/2023/10)
* [How To Talk About The Israel-Hamas War: Resources For Educators](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/how-to-talk-about-the-israel-hamas-war-resources-for-educators/2023/10)
* [Math Teachers And Math Ed. Professors Don't See Eye To Eye On Best Practices](https://www.edweek.org/teaching-learning/math-teachers-and-math-ed-professors-dont-see-eye-to-eye-on-best-practices/2023/10)
* [Central Oregon Community College Sees Enrollment Increase For First Time In 10 Years](https://www.opb.org/article/2023/10/15/central-oregon-community-college-higher-education-enrollment/)
* [Our New College Welcome Guide: See Laws, Policies Affecting College Students](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2023/10/16/choosing-college-campus-culture-tools-database/71144189007/)
* [How College Support Programs Can Make A Difference](https://readywa.org/resource/ariannas-story-how-college-support-programs-can-make-a-difference/)
* [Surviving College Applications: What I Wish I Knew](https://readywa.org/surviving-college-applications/)
* [Yes Students Build Career Readiness Skills With Paid Internships](https://www.esd112.org/news/yes-students-build-career-readiness-skills-with-paid-internships/)
* [‘We’re Being Attacked’: Florida Teachers Speak Out](https://hechingerreport.org/were-being-attacked-florida-teachers-speak-out/)
* [Youth-Led Workshops Push School Board Candidates To Address Student Needs](https://co.chalkbeat.org/2023/10/10/23912284/yaaspa-school-board-candidate-workshops-aurora-denver-cherry-creek)

**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.

* **[2024 YoungArts Award Competition](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fedpartnerships.us2.list-manage.com%2Ftrack%2Fclick%3Fu%3Da0d96cacbd72776b465181daf%26id%3D06b04a16c8%26e%3Da2f060beda&data=05%7C01%7CBethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7Cfca140779ad94fefd2cb08dbb459c73d%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638302069950331588%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=bBpccANWhKDvmEirm5aDvZnfbMOIoVOI7V2pjR%2BPYJ0%3D&reserved=0).** Open to artists (1) between the ages of 15–18 or in high school grades 10–12 (as of
* [**U.S. Presidential Scholar Nominations for Overall Achievement Award**.](https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/graduation/pubdocs/2023-24%20Overall%20Achievement%20Nomination%20Form.pdf) *Schools may nominate* one student who identifies as female and one as male. Candidates should have demonstrated leadership; school and community involvement; academic and extracurricular achievement and writing skills. Nominees may receive discretionary points for extraordinary scholastic achievement, long-lasting commitment to community service, heavy workload, additional family responsibilities, or significant obstacles that they overcame. Submit a nomination form and writing sample by Oct. 20.
* **The**[**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** |
| [Horatio Alger Scholarship - National](https://scholars.horatioalger.org/about-our-scholarship-programs/national-scholarships/) | ($25,000) - For HS students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. | 10/25 |
| [Horatio Alger Scholarship - State](https://scholars.horatioalger.org/about-our-scholarship-programs/state-scholarships/) | ($10,000) – For HS students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. | 10/25 |
| [U.S. Bank Scholarship Program](https://www.usbank.com/about-us-bank/community/scholarship-application-form.html) | Complete a series of Financial Genius for Life online learning modules for a chance to win. | 10/30 |
| [Disney Dreamers Academy Applications](https://www.disneydreamersacademy.com/be-a-dreamer/apply/) | (Academy) - This 4-day, power-packed event is for 100 selected HS students. Should be 13-19, 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 respond to the question: "Imagine that your HS or college has been overrun with zombies. Your math professor, the cafeteria ladies, and even your best friend have all 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/) | ($30,000) This audio-essay program provides HS students with the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. | 10/31 |
| [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 to apply. Must be a legal U.S. resident. Must reside in the 50 United States or the District of Columbia. | 11/30 |
| [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. | | |