WEEKLY BULLETIN

September 4-8, 2023

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| IN THIS ISSUE: |  **DID YOU KNOW?**The estimated credential attainment rate for the high school class of 2021 is 40%— three percentage points lower than the class of 2019 and 30 points below our state’s goal.>>[Learn](http://www.waroundtable.com/credentialessential/) more. |
| * Program Updates
* Student Recruitment & Outreach Events
 |
| * Optional Professional Development
 |
| * Resources
 |
| * In the News
* Scholarships & Opportunities
 |

# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* **Reminder:** Your GEAR UP students are automatically eligible for application fee waivers by simply identifying as GEAR UP participants. [Learn more.](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/common-app-fee-waiver-information-resources)
* **Update:** The GEAR UP West [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 to obtain the conference rate!
* **Deadline Sept. 15:** [**Join NCCEP’s Coordinator Learning Lab.**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2023/9/17/deadline-cll) This short-term, cohort-based professional development program explores common challenges facing new GEAR UP practitioners. Coordinators with 0–3 years of experience will especially benefit from this introductory experience. Next session: Sept. 25 – Nov. 30.
* **Reminder**: Review your Year 7 Work Plan & Budget and submit any necessary revisions by Sept. 30.
* **GEAR UP West Lodging Update:** The lodging per diem increases to $127 per night (pre-tax) as of Oct. 1. The new rate is reflected in the GEAR UP West lodging link. This amount is approved by WSAC for reimbursement.
* [**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.
* [**PNACAC College Fairs:**](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs)10/4: Lacey and 10/5: Tacoma.
* [**NACAC College Fairs:**](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/) 10/6-10/7: Seattle, 10/8-10/9: Portland, and 10/24: Spokane.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* [**2023-24 PNACAC College Counseling 101 Sessions.**](https://www.pnacac.org/webinars) Open to school/college counselors, consultants, CBOs, career center specialists, transfer center coordinators, and any other PNACAC members who work with secondary school or transfer-seeking students. *PNACAC membership is free for individuals from public school communities.* See the link for details.

* **[WCHSCR Fall Counselor Workshop](https://www.wa-council.org/2022/07/13/2022-fall-counselor-workshops/)**. 9/11-EWU, 9/12-CBC, 9/13-UWB, 9/14-CPT, 9/15-BTC, 9/19-Virtual.
* **Webinar:** [**Family Engagement**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_df24F_6ETxaOIqVcviziiw#/registration). By OSPI Graduation Equity. Sept. 13, 10 AM.
* **Virtual:** [**NCCEP Discussion Lab-Family Engagement.**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/nccep-events/2023/9/14disclab-fameng) Brainstorm ideas with GEAR UP staff nationwide. Sept. 14, 11 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Jumpstart to Success: Start the Year with the Latest Info and Resources.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wpx7sGYESgqG7gpbNsa5Qw#/registration) By OSPI & WSAC. Sept. 20, 9 AM.
* **Webinar:** [**Getting Ready for the Better FAFSA.**](https://www.ncan.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=1766092&group=)By NCAN. Sept. 26, 10-Noon.
* **Virtual: Suicide Prevention, Intervention, & Postvention Trainings**. By OSPI. Postvention: [Sept. 27](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTcsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBkZW5yb2xsZXIub3JnL2NhdGFsb2cvZXZlbnQvMTU2OTYzIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgzMC44MTg1OTAxMSJ9.X6Mlo3-ncG6JH1TNBBcIsQlBNCiZOzCzqBZ2Dg3Aksk/s/421506233/br/225014480145-l) and [Oct. 17](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTgsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBkZW5yb2xsZXIub3JnL2NhdGFsb2cvZXZlbnQvMTU3MDEyIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgzMC44MTg1OTAxMSJ9.X86rVJnWs6pNJV8ManHZENRF4V47h1SpJbsa3IjtXow/s/421506233/br/225014480145-l), Intervention: [Oct. 24](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTksInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBkZW5yb2xsZXIub3JnL2NhdGFsb2cvZXZlbnQvMTU3MDEzIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgzMC44MTg1OTAxMSJ9.Kraxn0swE-fCmTszUEDQXneOpiHonj-7beWNwDA_Azs/s/421506233/br/225014480145-l) and [Nov. 8](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjAsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBkZW5yb2xsZXIub3JnL2NhdGFsb2cvZXZlbnQvMTU3MDIzIiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgzMC44MTg1OTAxMSJ9.Qpy3BA1WYYU_d95bearRYMIzMRNPFzpWwRNtgJ2XXC8/s/421506233/br/225014480145-l), and Prevention: [Nov.14](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjEsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBkZW5yb2xsZXIub3JnL2NhdGFsb2cvZXZlbnQvMTU3MDI3IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgzMC44MTg1OTAxMSJ9._rguXhMz4s5aItcGMlXfAXR4EVZyg2cT9fkZqgnob-Q/s/421506233/br/225014480145-l) & [Dec. 11](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMjIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBkZW5yb2xsZXIub3JnL2NhdGFsb2cvZXZlbnQvMTU5NDE3IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMDgzMC44MTg1OTAxMSJ9.zBamCgjIuHwYTj4Sz-WVD5RDSxbBuYKyRR7CAwchTec/s/421506233/br/225014480145-l).
* **Webinar:** [**Sustaining Success: Investing in Showing Up**](https://www.attendanceworks.org/resources/webinars/). By Attendance Works. Sept. 27, Noon.
* [**PNACAC College Fairs:**](https://www.pnacac.org/fall-fairs)10/4: Lacey and 10/5: Tacoma.
* [**NACAC College Fairs:**](https://www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/) 10/6-10/7: Seattle, 10/8-10/9: Portland, and 10/24: Spokane.
* **Webinar:** [**What You Need to Know: FAFSA Simplification Act.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZclduuvqjoqHtDZpbrmDoGgXDuP1W08kepi#/registration) By Aim Higher WA. Oct. 12, 10 AM.
* [**2023 NCAN National Conference.**](https://www.ncan.org/page/2023NCANConference)Dallas, Oct. 16-18.
* [**GEAR UP West Conference.**](https://gearup.wa.gov/about/what-we-do/gear-west)Spokane, Oct. 22-24.
* **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:** [**ABC's of College Posters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/abcs-college)**and**[**College, Armed Services, & Opportunity Pennants**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/washington-state-gear-resources/college-going-culture/pennants)**.** Use these graphics throughout your school to help add to your college-going culture.
* [**Tips To Prepare For Senior Year Of High School**](https://wsac.wa.gov/senior-year)**.** From WSAC. Find tips and resources to help you prepare for key senior responsibilities, such as applying to colleges or job training, and getting financial aid.
* [**High School and Beyond Plan Resources**](https://readywa.org/HSBPSupportStudents/). From ReadyWA. Learn more and talk with students about their HSBP process. Find resources you can use to understand the components of the Plan and how to put it into action in your classroom.
* [**Back-to-School Resources - American School Counselor Association (ASCA).**](https://www.schoolcounselor.org/Publications-Research/Publications/Free-ASCA-Resources/Back-to-School-School-Counselors) As students and staff return for the new school year, ASCA is here to help you prepare – from updating your school counseling program to refreshing your ethics knowledge to helping support students develop the mindset and behaviors they need to navigate today’s challenges and achieve success.
* [**Simplified FAFSA Toolkit Now Available**](https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/announcement-detail.jsp?id=better-fafsa-better-future)**.** From Federal Student Aid. Find up-to-date resources about FAFSA® simplification.

# IN THE NEWS

* [Youth Mentorship Program Hopes To Match More Kids With An Abundance Of Mentors](https://www.heraldnet.com/local-marketplace/youth-mentorship-program-hopes-to-match-more-kids-with-an-abundance-of-mentors/)
* [Washington Schools Grapple With Fentanyl Crisis As Students Head Back To Class](https://www.king5.com/article/news/education/washington-schools-grapple-fentanyl-students/281-a5b87aad-dcf0-428f-9fb6-e9538b70682b)
* [Spokane Student Takes Second Place At National Robotics Competition](https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2023/aug/30/spokane-student-takes-second-place-at-national-rob/)
* [OSPI Explains: What Is The Healthy Youth Survey, And How Are The Results Used?](https://medium.com/waospi/ospi-explains-what-is-the-healthy-youth-survey-and-how-are-the-results-used-bfde2bc2a133)
* [How Many Start Teacher Training — & How Many Finish? The Numbers Are Disturbing](https://www.the74million.org/article/how-many-start-teacher-training-how-many-finish-the-numbers-are-disturbing/)
* [California Sues Schools Over Policy That Notifies Parents Of Gender Identity Changes](https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/education/2023/08/28/california-sues-chino-valley-unified-school-district/70704573007/)
* [Investing In Hope Education To Support Pandemic Recovery](https://medium.com/waospi/investing-in-hope-education-to-support-pandemic-recovery-f2436afb7ded)
* [Serving Students Beyond The 9-5](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/student-success/academic-life/2023/09/05/higher-ed-personnel-adapt-schedules-student-success)
* [Higher Ed’s Founding Promise](https://washingtonmonthly.com/2023/08/27/higher-eds-founding-promise)
* [National Teacher Of The Year Finds The Good In Each Day, Despite Hard Times](https://www.tpr.org/2023-09-04/national-teacher-of-the-year-finds-the-good-in-each-day-despite-hard-times)

# SCHOLARSHIPS & OPPORTUNITIES

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

* [**Path to Pro Scholarship**](https://www.myscholarship.app/home-depot-foundation)**.** $2,000 scholarship for students attending an approved trade-related program (Carpentry, Electrical, HVAC, Plumbing or Construction Management) at an accredited two-year school. Due Sept. 30.
* **Seeking** [**U.S. Presidential Scholar Nominations**](https://www.k12.wa.us/sites/default/files/public/graduation/pubdocs/2023-24%20Overall%20Achievement%20Nomination%20Form.pdf) **for Overall Achievement Award**. Schools may nominate one student identifying as female and one student who identifies 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 which they overcame.  Submit a nomination form and writing sample for each student by 5 pm on Oct. 20.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [NAEHCY Scholarship Fund](https://naehcy.org/naehcy-scholarship-fund/) | NAEHCY Eligibility - To be eligible for the scholarship, applicants must meet the following criteria:• Applicant must be under the age of 21 • Applicant be actively pursuing post-secondary education• Applicant must be eligible for McKinney-Vento assistance or have experiencedhomelessness while in school within the last six years• Undocumented students who meet these criteria are eligible• The McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Act defines parameters on homeless status. | 9/16 |
| [We the Future Contest](http://constitutingamerica.org/downloads.php) | Open to K-12 students, college students, law school students, graduate students, adults 25 years and older, and seniors 65 years and older. Each age group has different requirements, so applicants should visit the website for details. Amount varies. | 9/17 |
| [QuestBridge National College Match](http://www.questbridge.org/for-students/ncm-national-college-match) | An online platform that helps outstanding low-income HS seniors gain admission and full 4-year scholarships to some of the nation's most selective colleges. | 9/27 |
| [Don’t Text and Drive Scholarship](http://www.digitalresponsibility.org/dont-text-and-drive-scholarship) | ($1,000) - Complete the application form, including a 140-character message about texting while driving. 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 texting while driving. | 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 or less, submit an online response to the question: "If you could say one thing to the entire world at once, what would it be and why?"  | 9/30 |
| [Golden Door Scholars Scholarship for Undocumented Students](http://www.goldendoorscholars.org/) | (Full Tuition) - Golden Door Scholars lights the way for undocumented students to invest in their education and to achieve their career goals beyond what they might imagine. Recent high school graduates, currently enrolled undergraduates, and transfer students (community college or 4-year college) are also welcome to apply. Applications are considered on a rolling basis, so applying early is helpful. However, applications received after the deadline will not be considered. We do not support funding for graduate degrees. Students must be eligible for DACA. | 10/1 |
| [Coca-Cola Scholars Scholarship](http://www.coca-colascholarsfoundation.org/apply/#programs) | ($20,000) - High school seniors with a minimum 3.0 unweighted GPA may apply on our website in August of their senior year until the October 31 deadline. 150 Coca-Cola Scholars are selected each year to receive this $20,000 scholarship. | 10/2 |
| [Horatio Alger Scholarship - National Scholarships](https://scholars.horatioalger.org/about-our-scholarship-programs/national-scholarships/) | ($25,000) - The Horatio Alger National Scholarship Program is one of the major scholarship programs nationally that specifically assists high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. | 10/25 |
| [Horatio Alger Scholarship - State Scholarships](https://scholars.horatioalger.org/about-our-scholarship-programs/state-scholarships/) | ($10,000) - State scholarships are awarded to eligible students in all fifty states and the District of Columbia. The program specifically assists high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. | 10/25 |
| [U.S. Bank Scholarship Program](https://www.usbank.com/community/financial-education/scholarship.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) - Disney Dreamers Academy is a 4-day, power-packed event in which 100 select high school students, ages 13 to 19, are 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 submit a response to the question: "Imagine that your high school 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) Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regard to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first place winner receives a $30,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient’s American university, college or vocational/technical school.  | 10/31 |
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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. |