WEEKLY BULLETIN

**December 4-8, 2023**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**Two-year college completion rates are edging up again. [Keep Reading](https://www.ccdaily.com/2023/11/two-year-college-completion-rates-up-again) |
| * Program Updates
* Student Recruitment & Outreach Events
 |
| * Optional Professional Development
 |
| * Resources
 |
| * In the News
* Scholarships & Opportunities
 |

# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* **Tomorrow is #BetterFAFSA Awareness Day!** Want to spread awareness about changes and ensure students are prepared? Use this [digital social media toolkit](https://socialpresskit.com/thirdwayedu#betterfafsa-day-2023) from NCAN, NASFAA, and Third Way. See also: [Better FAFSA updates and resources](https://www.ncan.org/news/659245/Ring-in-the-New-Year-with-the-Better-FAFSA-Updates-and-Resources-for-2024.htm)
* **Job Opening:** [**WAGU Fiscal and Administrative Specialist**](https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/washington/jobs/4267974/fiscal-and-administrative-specialist). Due Dec. 12.
* **Call for Proposals:** [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual). What do you and your team do well? Review the How-To Guide to write a stellar proposal. Due by Dec. 15.
* **Deadline:** [**Work Plan And Budget Revisions**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/form-plan-and-budget-revision-request) are due Dec. 31 if you have any changes. Please review your work plan for the next few months to see if anything needs to be updated.
* [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters)**.** Monthly newsletters 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.*

# STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS

* **View Video Series:** [**WAGU Career & Technical Programs**](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWg-9DmEamIJTFoNC8vnMQjscI2nkC9st) | [**WAGU Campus Visits**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/washington-state-gear-resources/campus-visits/virtual-campus-visit-series) | [**WAGU Speaker Series**](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLWg-9DmEamIL785e8tz6YZul9dVf1Fpcp)
* [**Virtual Financial Aid Help Events**](https://www.uaspire.org/FinAidEvents). uAspire hosts free virtual events to walk students and families through the financial aid process and applications, provide resources and guidance, and answer questions. Each session is one hour. Topics include CCS profile, FAFSA Walkthrough, Next Steps Post-FAFSA, Financial Aid Offer Review, and Summer Financial Aid Steps.
* [**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.
* [**NACAC Spring 2024 National College Fair**](https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs)**.** 2/18-Virtual, 3/24-Virtual, 4/21-Virtual.
* [**PNACAC Spring College Fair**](https://www.pnacac.org/spring-college-fairs). 4/19-Spokane, 4/22-Seattle, 4/30-Portland.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **Webinar:** [**Changes to the Financial Aid Applications.**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wpx7sGYESgqG7gpbNsa5Qw#/registration) By OSPI/WSAC. ([PDEnroller Link for Clock Hours](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMTIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsInVybCI6Imh0dHBzOi8vd3d3LnBkZW5yb2xsZXIub3JnL2NhdGFsb2cvZXZlbnQvMTY0MjQ4IiwiYnVsbGV0aW5faWQiOiIyMDIzMTEyMC44NTkxNTQ1MSJ9.bKc7m6a4GJuW-epSRDzLKaEVAtS-BRAJTEaWn_nBuGI/s/421506233/br/231228810276-l%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)). Dec. 6, 11 AM.
* **Discussion Lab:** [**FAFSA Completion Strategies for 2024**](https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUvdu6srTsjHtTkiiREWx1DY4zEOfzu_ydo?mc_cid=8f8a621040&mc_eid=a2f060beda#/registration). By NCCEP. Dec. 7, 11 AM.
	+ - * **Virtual:** [**MAD-learn Student Showcase**](https://tinyurl.com/MAD-StudentShowcaseAttendee)**.** Dec. 7, Noon.
* [**2023 Power of Hope Awards**](https://npsi.org/power-of-hope-awards)**.** The National Postsecondary Strategy Institute is excited to announce the 2023 Power of Hope Awards launch in collaboration with Common App and Michelle Obama's Reach Higher Initiative. This award honors school districts that engage school counselors as postsecondary leaders, tracking FAFSA and delivering postsecondary interventions in collaboration with district administrators. Districts can apply or be nominated by Dec. 15.
	+ - * **Webinar:** [**Getting Ready For The Better FAFSA.**](https://ncan-org.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_1GKFUIveTc-NdHFU-AnmqA#/registration) By NCAN. Jan. 5, 10 AM.
			* **Webinar:** [**The 2024-2025 FAFSA: Helping Homeless and Foster Youth**](https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/9017013567801/WN_xdQY1ATnQtWdV4JiWiO9iw?emci=83a14b73-7b90-ee11-8925-002248223f36&emdi=6db2f92e-be92-ee11-8925-002248223f36&ceid=11625301#/registration). By SchoolHouse Connections. Jan. 16, 12:30.
			* **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.
* [**PNACAC Conference: Where It All Began**](https://www.pnacac.org/annual-conference). May 22 - 24, Salem, OR.
* [**NCCEP/GEAR UP Annual Conference**](https://www.edpartnerships.org/annual)**.** July 21-24, Washington, DC.

# RESOURCES

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Student Alumni Webpage Template**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/student-alumni-webpage-template). Recent high school graduates may still need support and guidance around college or career pathways. This template features language you can use for this webpage.
* [**12th Year Campaign Support Modules.**](https://wsac.wa.gov/12th-year-campaign) Every module features a financial aid resource, video, and Kahoot quiz for you to use with students and families.
* [**AI Guidance for Schools Toolkit**](http://www.teachai.org/toolkit). From TeachAI. Don't miss your chance to hear from district leaders about principles to consider when incorporating AI in schools.
* [**How to Manage Anxiety**](https://jedfoundation.org/resource/how-can-i-manage-my-anxiety)**.** From the Jed Foundation. Find some helpful techniques to keep calm.
* [**U.S. Department of Ed Net Price Calculator Center**](https://collegecost.ed.gov/net-price)**.** Prospective students enter information about themselves to find out what students like them paid to attend the institution in the previous year after taking grants and scholarship aid into account.
* [**Career Bridge Washington**](http://www.careerbridge.wa.gov/). WA’s one-stop source for career and education planning.
* [**Career Explore NW.**](https://www.careerexplorenw.org/) Provides educational and career resources to explorers, both in and outside of the classroom.

**IN THE NEWS**

* [Evolving The Learning & Employment Ecosystem](https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/blogs/beyond-transfer/2023/11/27/5-ways-college-and-universities-support-skills-based)
* [Free Online Tool To Connect College Students Facing Basic Needs Insecurity To Resources](https://www.diverseeducation.com/student-issues/article/15658670/new-jersey-launches-free-online-tool-to-connect-college-students-facing-basic-needs-insecurity-to-resources)
* [OR Decriminalization Reveals Possible Solutions & Challenges To Addressing Addiction](https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/oregon-decriminalization-reveals-possible-solutions-and-challenges-to-addressing-addiction)
* [A Guide For First-Generation, Working-Class Graduate Students](https://www.insidehighered.com/opinion/career-advice/2023/11/03/tips-first-generation-working-class-grad-school-students-opinion)
* [Many Parents Don’t Know When Kids Are Behind In School](https://apnews.com/article/school-report-card-test-score-poll-755cc4b52f5c7946f28207ab07fd5794)
* [Ways To Gain Skills Through Opportunities In High School](https://readywa.org/ways-to-gain-skills-through-opportunities-in-high-school)
* [Reinstating Pell Grants In Prisons](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/governance/state-oversight/2023/11/17/after-26-year-ban-reinstating-pell-prisons-moves-slowly)
* [HBCUs Increase Black Students’ Likelihood Of Graduating](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2023/11/29/hbcus-increase-black-students-likelihood-graduating)
* [The Mental Health & Well-Being Of Indigenous LGBTQ Young People](https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/the-mental-health-and-well-being-of-indigenous-lgbtq-young-people)
* [The Hidden Financial Aid Hurdle Derailing College Students](https://hechingerreport.org/my-number-one-enemy-the-hidden-financial-aid-hurdle-derailing-college-students)
* [The Now of Work](https://www.ccdaily.com/2023/11/the-now-of-work/)
* [Getting An Education While Homeless](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JgNTh8xUalI)
* [Academic Burnout Is Real & Preventable](https://medium.com/waospi/student-stories-academic-burnout-is-real-and-preventable-33685d4d824e)
* [Leaders Push For K-12 Schools To Fully Implement Tribal History Curriculum](https://washingtonstatestandard.com/2023/11/30/native-and-state-leaders-push-for-k-12-schools-to-fully-implement-tribal-history-curriculum/)
* [Rising Tensions From Israel-Hamas War Are Seeping Into Schools](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/rising-tensions-from-israel-hamas-war-are-seeping-into-schools/2023/11)
* [The Perception Of Suburban Schools As White & Wealthy Needs To Change](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/the-perception-of-suburban-schools-as-white-and-wealthy-needs-to-change-researchers-say/2023/11)
* [What Slogan Would You Use To Recruit Teachers?](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/what-slogan-would-you-use-to-recruit-teachers-educators-weigh-in/2023/11)
* [Nez Perce Tribe Shares Its Work To Restore Balance In Documentary](https://www.inlander.com/news/the-nez-perce-tribe-shares-its-work-to-restore-balance-in-the-documentary-covenant-of-the-salmon-people-27042691)

**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.
* [**Get Schooled Essay Review**](https://getschooled.com/college-review)**.** Get Schooled helps you with your essays for college applications and scholarships. Submit your personal statement, supplemental college application essays, and scholarship essays for feedback. They will provide actionable suggestions and feedback within one week.
* [**Community Health Professions Academy (CHPA)**](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdIe0Zh3fXIL36l16wGTFVKBekh6U_0SE5kElu_05PFcE6GBA/viewform). By UW School of Dentistry. For students, in grades 9-12. Apps are considered on a rolling basis until Dec. 15. Learn more: [Community Health Professions Academy – UW.](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fdental.washington.edu%2Foepd%2Fyouth-programs%2F&data=05%7C01%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C474b4f57a7a94757636108dbf1cc8c8d%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638369634567842025%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NAaTvVaW9By2nlqUHD4ySn0PlDgulPiMxBjonA%2FD9lA%3D&reserved=0)
* [**WSECU Scholarships**](https://wsecu.org/scholarships)**.** For members of all ages. $2,000 is awarded for two-year colleges and vocational schools. $3,000 is awarded for four-year undergraduate programs and graduate programs. Applications are accepted from Dec. 11-Feb. 12.
* [**HearMeWA**](https://www.atg.wa.gov/HearMeWA). The Attorney General’s Office seeking WA youth ages 12-25 for a Youth Advisory Group. [Apply](https://www.research.net/r/youthadvisorygroupapplication) by 1/1/.

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| **College Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [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 |
| [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.  | 12/22 |
| [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 |
| [Reach For Your Peak](https://getschooled.com/peak-scholarship/) | A $2000 scholarship for an HS junior or senior living in OR or WA.  | 12/31 |
| [First-Gen Trailblazers Scholarship](https://getschooled.com/first-gen-trailblazers-scholarship)  | Awarded exclusively to high school juniors and seniors who are the first in their generation to go to college. | 12/31 |
| [Rise to Legacy HBCU Scholarship](https://getschooled.com/rise-to-legacy-hbcu-scholarship/)  |  Awarded exclusively to high school juniors and seniors who are planning to apply to a Historically Black College or University. | 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 who 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 |
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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. |