WEEKLY BULLETIN

**May 13-17, 2024**

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| IN THIS ISSUE: | **DID YOU KNOW?**Employment in health care rose by 56,000 jobs in April.Learn about current job trends and industry insights, and find free workforce development resources.<https://bit.ly/4buvTJk> |
| * Program Updates
* Student Recruitment & Outreach Events
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# WA STATE GEAR UP PROGRAM UPDATES

* [**Call for Proposals is Open!**](https://airtable.com/app7jdN8h1uHg1qhT/shr54I5G3Xrqcfyyv) **GEAR UP West**. Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM.
* **Reminder**: **Final Work Plan & Budget Revisions** are due June 30. Please send to featherw@wsac.wa.gov
* [**College Knowledge Family Newsletters**](https://gearup.wa.gov/educators/family-newsletters)**.** Monthly newsletters for students by grade level. Pre-loaded with info and areas to personalize! Available in English, Arabic, Chuukese, Marshallese, Russian, Somali, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

# 2024-25 FAFSA UPDATES

* **Financial aid offers are starting to go out.** While some colleges have begun sending out financial aid award offers, the timeline will vary. Many, especially community and technical colleges, are still working to process delayed data from the FAFSA.
* **Applicants can now** [**check their application status**](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frw2yhkq5.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fstudentaid.gov%252Fhelp%252Fcheck-fafsa-status%253Futm_medium%3Demail%2526utm_source%3DWSAC%2F1%2F0101018f5a4a45cb-87af54d2-c230-4622-b6be-444d1a98c3b0-000000%2F-wN3m8jaC0arf-NnSIrQtp4ymuc%3D374&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C665593a80db24bf3a03108dc6faced87%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638508035722217880%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=zlccWShIonKBsWYJScRYYRzy9XPlMYcUWMcDjozUQgI%3D&reserved=0) **and make corrections.** All students should log in and verify their application is complete and correct as submitted.
* **Mixed-status families can now finish their applications**. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) temporarily allows [parents and guardians without a social security number](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frw2yhkq5.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fstudentaid.gov%252Fannouncements-events%252Ffafsa-support%252Fcontributor-social-security-number%253Futm_medium%3Demail%2526utm_source%3DWSAC%2F1%2F0101018f5a4a45cb-87af54d2-c230-4622-b6be-444d1a98c3b0-000000%2FHbhYE3z5AOROYrK_b7N63LxiYBk%3D374&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C665593a80db24bf3a03108dc6faced87%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638508035722223662%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NHWtu%2BthfoRn19CrjTbHAMOBS8iNIDR%2BUVRE4qTkxJk%3D&reserved=0) to immediately complete their portion of the online 2024-25 FAFSA application.
* **Funding available!** ED announced a new program, administered by ECMC, entitled the [FAFSA Student Support Strategy,](https://www.ecmc.org/fafsa-support#:~:text=The%20goal%20of%20the%20FAFSA,providing%20these%20or%20similar%20services.) to help school districts, states, nonprofit organizations, and other public and private organizations with efforts to boost 2024-25 FAFSA completion. Learn how to apply.
* **NCAN launched the** [**Do The FAFSA campaign,**](https://www.ncan.org/news/672388/New-National-Digital-Campaign-Encourages-Pell-Eligible-Young-People-to-DoTheFAFSA.htm) a national digital effort to encourage students, especially those of color and from low-income backgrounds, to complete the form.
* **Download the** [**Better FAFSA Toolkits.**](https://www.ed.gov/better-fafsa) Resources from ED for students and families, high school educators and college access counselors, and college officials
* **FAFSA Dashboard:** WSAC is pleased to announce that a beta version of our updated public-facing [FAFSA completion dashboard](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frw2yhkq5.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwsac.wa.gov%252Ffafsa-completion%253Futm_medium%3Demail%2526utm_source%3DWSAC%2F1%2F0101018f5a4a45cb-87af54d2-c230-4622-b6be-444d1a98c3b0-000000%2FQ9THnzphEIH2-g_a0BLVRxHkf3I%3D374&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C665593a80db24bf3a03108dc6faced87%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638508035722199217%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=6xOJ%2F2yB8h1dV0uT2iuCqYMDyg68OiS%2BdYQo1%2F26ry0%3D&reserved=0) is now online. New views allow you to track and understand FAFSA completion data at the aggregate level.
* **FAFSA Portal:** School staff can track student-level data in WSAC’s [FAFSA portal](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frw2yhkq5.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fportal.wsac.wa.gov%252F%253Futm_medium%3Demail%2526utm_source%3DWSAC%2F1%2F0101018f5a4a45cb-87af54d2-c230-4622-b6be-444d1a98c3b0-000000%2F36u1GLKkG5vSdoeWDRvrA42ClHU%3D374&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C665593a80db24bf3a03108dc6faced87%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638508035722204935%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=okNS%2FtvGUblNaPeKb9t9LybDKuGhmaMlTBb5JTCvAk4%3D&reserved=0). The portal can help identify gaps and students needing additional support. To gain access, please email fafsa@wsac.wa.gov.
* **Governor’s Letter:** Share this [letter from Governor Inslee to graduating high school seniors!](https://gcc02.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Frw2yhkq5.r.us-west-2.awstrack.me%2FL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fdrive.google.com%252Ffile%252Fd%252F1sxbPjFigizlDYWBbSaB-aj3eu8TNHltz%252Fview%253Fusp%3Ddrive_link%2526utm_medium%3Demail%2526utm_source%3DWSAC%2F1%2F0101018f5a4a45cb-87af54d2-c230-4622-b6be-444d1a98c3b0-000000%2FdsMwLrwLZ2ABWXElVkeCVWEJyCE%3D374&data=05%7C02%7Cbethk%40wsac.wa.gov%7C665593a80db24bf3a03108dc6faced87%7C11d0e217264e400a8ba057dcc127d72d%7C0%7C0%7C638508035722211315%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=tppviehhfYlwYxntDASPgYsSYuwK%2Fo2mxgBIT7OWXWg%3D&reserved=0) It includes information about state financial aid and articulates the importance of completing a FAFSA or WASFA. Students enrolled in College Bound will get this letter in the mail, but we hope you will distribute it more broadly to seniors via email, in your newsletter, or posted on your organization’s website.

**STUDENT RECRUITMENT & OUTREACH EVENTS**

* [**12th Year Campaign Financial Aid Information & Filing Events.**](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1oELovlvqYmCD7NY0nDw7A_b1Bbeoj4-M7VNBDaQfxoI/edit#heading=h.42fu3w63mb46) Most events are virtual. Spanish events are available.

# OPTIONAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

* **Webinar:** [**Legislative Updates**](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_wpx7sGYESgqG7gpbNsa5Qw#/registration). By OSPI-WSAC. May 15, 9:00-10:30 AM
* [**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.
* **GEAR UP West**. Oct. 27 – 29, Albuquerque, NM. *Registration Opens May 20.*

# Resources

* **WAGU Featured Resource:** [**Which Financial Aid Is the Best to Accept?**](https://gearup.wa.gov/file/which-financial-aid-best-accept) This handout accompanies the 12th Year Campaign Junior/Senior Student Workbook and guides students through college admissions and financial aid.
* [**Understanding Aid Options and Comparing Award Letters.**](https://www.studentloaned.wa.gov/courses/understanding-aid-options-and-comparing-award-letters/) Get help from WSAC’s Student Loan Education site.
* [**College Scorecard**](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/)**.** Find the right fit. Search and compare colleges: their fields of study, costs, admissions, results, and more.

**IN THE NEWS**

* [Campus Protests Overwhelmingly Peaceful](https://www.insidehighered.com/news/quick-takes/2024/05/13/report-campus-protests-overwhelmingly-peaceful)
* [Community College Baccalaureate Programs Continue To Grow](https://www.ccdaily.com/2024/05/community-college-baccalaureate-programs-continue-to-grow)
* [School Segregation: A Visual Timeline](https://hechingerreport.org/school-segregation-a-visual-timeline)
* [7 Realities For Black Students In America, 70 Years After Brown](https://hechingerreport.org/7-realities-for-black-students-in-america-70-years-after-brown)
* [Black Principals Play A Key Role In Transforming Education. We Need More Of Them](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-black-principals-play-a-key-role-in-transforming-education-we-need-more-of-them)
* [70 Years After Brown Vs. Board Decision, Key Takeaways Remain Buried](https://hechingerreport.org/opinion-70-years-after-brown-vs-board-decision-key-takeaways-remain-buried)
* [Study Finds Segregation Increasing In Large Districts — And School Choice Is A Factor](https://www.chalkbeat.org/2024/05/06/school-segregation-increasing-study-finds-charters-are-one-factor/)
* [Why Advocates Hope A New Law Will Reduce Homelessness For Youth Leaving Foster Care](https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/new-washington-law-extended-foster-care/281-0e74d63b-4268-4440-8a8b-0534978ab3e7)
* [Student Stories: What Is Senioritis?](https://ospi.k12.wa.us/about-ospi/news-center/special-projects/student-stories-what-senioritis)
* [PODCAST: The Future Of Education In Washington State](https://www.effectiveness.org/podcast/the-future-of-education-in-wa)
* [Native Students and educators Raise Awareness For Victims Of Violence](https://www.thedailyworld.com/news/native-students-educators-raise-awareness-for-victims-of-violence/)
* [How AI Can Enhance The Grading Process](https://www.edutopia.org/article/using-ai-grading-tools-enhance-process)
* [More States Are Requiring Asian American History. This State Offers Lessons On How To Get It Right](https://www.chalkbeat.org/2024/05/09/as-states-require-asian-american-history-in-schools-illinois-trains-teachers/)
* [Should Washington’s Public Schools Ban Students From Using Cellphones?](https://www.the74million.org/article/should-washingtons-public-schools-ban-students-from-using-cellphones/)
* [Deepfakes Expose Public School Employees To New Threats](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/deepfakes-expose-public-school-employees-to-new-threats/2024/05)
* [Schools Feel Less Equipped To Meet Students' Mental Health Needs Than A Few Years Ago](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/schools-feel-less-equipped-to-meet-students-mental-health-needs-than-a-few-years-ago/2024/05)
* [8 Steps To Revolutionize Education](https://www.edweek.org/leadership/opinion-8-steps-to-revolutionize-education/2024/05)

**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.

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| **Scholarship** | **Brief Description** | **Due** |
| [Steps For Change Scholarship](https://www.wealthbyhealth.org/steps-for-change-scholarship) | An income and merit-based renewable scholarship awarded to high school seniors applying to a college or university to further their career goals. Students from low-income families are recognized for their capacity to lead and commitment to significantly impacting communities. Award recipients must display academic excellence, exude passion for empowering the community, and exemplify a desire for continuous personal growth. Award recipients will receive a $2,000 scholarship. | 5/15 |
| [Humane Education Network: A Voice for Animals HS Essay Contest](http://www.hennet.org/contest.php) | For HS students (ages 14-19). $150-$650. Rules & requirements may vary from year to year. | 5/31 |
| [Fifth Month Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/fifth-month-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "May is the fifth month of the year. Write a letter to the number five explaining why five is important. Be serious or be funny. Either way, here's a high five for being original." Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application. | 5/31 |
| [College is Power Scholarship](http://www.collegeispower.com/scholarship.cfm) | ($1,000) A scholarship to help you pay for college! The "College Is Power" scholarship is open to students aged 17 and older who are currently in college or plan to start college within the next 12 months. Use the scholarship to pay for tuition, books, room and board, computers, or anything related to your education! | 5/31 |
| [UW Young Executives of Color Program](http://foster.uw.edu/academics/degree-programs/undergraduate-programs/diversity-services/young-executives-of-color-yeoc/) | YEOC is a nine-month college pipeline program hosted by the University of Washington Foster School of Business. The program currently serves 190 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors from 75 schools in Washington. Students attend sessions on the UW campus one Saturday every month for college preparation, business lectures, professional development, and powerful mentorship. YEOC is a FREE nine-month program. The only cost to students is transportation to UW Seattle. | 5/31 |
| [American Indian College Fund Full Circle Scholarship](http://collegefund.org/student-resources/scholarships/scholarship-programs/) | Full Circle Scholarship: The American Indian College Fund supports American Indian and Alaska Native college students seeking technical, undergraduate, and graduate degrees at tribal colleges and other nonprofit, accredited schools. Any Native American U.S. citizen who is a member or descendant of a state or federally-recognized tribe with at least a 2.0 grade point average and enrolled full-time can apply for a scholarship. | 5/31 |
| [A.T. Anderson Memorial Scholarship](http://www.aises.org/students/scholarships) | ($1,000) - This scholarship is awarded to American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian AISES members pursuing the sciences, engineering, medicine, natural resources, math & technology degrees. Students are required to submit three essays (prompts provided), up to 1,000 words each.  | 5/31 |
| [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.  | 5/31 |
| [Wilson-Hooper Veterinary Medicine Assistance Program](https://www.nativeforward.org/scholarships/wilson-hooper-veterinary-medicine-assistance-program-2022-2023/) | This is for native students pursuing a degree in veterinary medicine (DVM) or veterinary technology (associate of applied science degree). | 6/1 |
| [Wells Fargo Scholarship for Undergraduates](https://www.nativeforward.org/scholarships/wells-fargo-scholarship-for-undergraduates/#:~:text=The%20Wells%20Fargo%20Scholarship%20for,in%20any%20field%20of%20study.) | (Up to $5,000) - For first-year college students, sophomores, juniors, and seniors who hold 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 US. | 6/1 |
| [Stuck At Prom Scholarship Contest](http://stuckatprom.com/) | ($10,000) - This is the coolest scholarship contest around! Students are challenged to create and wear their prom outfits made entirely from Duck Tape to win scholarship cash! | 6/5 |
| [National First-Generation Recognition Program](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/communities-events/national-recognition-programs) | From College Board. For HS students whose parent(s) does not have a bachelor’s degree or has some education that is less than a bachelor’s degree.  | 6/14 |
| [2024 Breakthrough Junior Challenge](https://breakthroughjuniorchallenge.org/) | Win a life-changing $250,000 college scholarship! For 13–18-year-olds who are good at explaining math or science. To enter, they must create a minimum of less than 2 minutes. Video explaining a key concept in math, physics, or life sciences for a chance to win a prize for them, their teacher, and their school. | 6/25 |
| [Navigate Your Future Scholarship](http://www.nata.aero/Scholarships/Navigate-Your-Future-Scholarship.aspx) | A $2,500 scholarship is offered to an HS graduate continuing their education in the aviation industry. | 6/28 |
| [Geoscience IDEA Scholarship (formerly AWG Minority Scholarship)](https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.awg.org/resource/resmgr/awards/student_awards/geoscienceideascholarship22.pdf) | The scholarship provides up to $5000 in awards annually, typically split between two or more undergraduate students, and matches them with AWG mentors to enhance their careers. It also includes a one-year, sponsored AWG student membership. | 6/30 |
| [Do-Over Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/do-over-scholarship) | ($1,500) - In 250 words or less, submit a response to the question: "If you could get one 'do-over' in life, what would it be and why?" | 6/30 |
| [Scholarship Poetry Contest - Fall Issue](http://www.justpoetry.org/submissions) | Open to all U.S. HS students. Applicant must submit an original poem with 20 lines or less. Up to $500. | 6/30 |
| [Flavor of the Month Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/flavor-of-the-month-scholarship) | ($1,500) -Summer and ice cream go hand-in-hand. July is National Ice Cream Month, and that's the inspiration behind this award. People are very similar to ice cream; some are nutty, others a little exotic, and some are very comforting. If you were an ice cream flavor, which would you be and why?" (250 words or less) | 7/31 |
| [Make Me Laugh Scholarship](https://www.unigo.com/scholarships/our-scholarships/make-me-laugh-scholarship) | ($1,500) - Make Me Laugh is a fun scholarship that lets you cut loose and lighten things up. Looking for a scholarship for comedians? Now is your chance to show us your funny bone. Perhaps you always have an embarrassing - but funny - story to share. Great! We'll promise to laugh with you, not at you. Must be 14 years of age or older at the time of application. | 8/31 |
| [Beauty & Wellness Professionals Scholarship](https://www.beautyschoolsdirectory.com/cosmetology-school-scholarships) | ($2,500) This is for students currently enrolled in an eligible program and prospective students planning to enroll in an eligible program before the scholarship deadline.  | 9/1 |
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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. |