

Title	Executive Update
Staff lead	Gene Sharratt
Position	Executive Director
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Synopsis	The Executive Update will provide members with a review of current agency work related to program administration and policy. The Executive Director will provide this synopsis at the beginning of each Council meeting.
Guiding questions	Do the activities of the agency align with our statutory mission?
Possible council action	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information/Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Adopt <input type="checkbox"/> Other:
Documents and attachments	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brief/Report <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PowerPoint <input type="checkbox"/> Third-party materials <input type="checkbox"/> Other

**Agency Update
Two-Month Executive Summary**

Project	Recent Work
Outreach and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>FAFSA Completion Initiative</u>: Thus far, nearly 60 percent of Washington school districts are now eligible to access FAFSA data on the portal, and the majority of respondents say they have used data from the FAFSA Completion Portal in conversations with students. • <u>College Bound Scholarship</u>: The preliminary CBS sign-up rate for the Class of 2019 is now at 90 percent statewide, surpassing our 89 percent mark from last year. • <u>The 12th Year Campaign</u>: We already have over 70 sites signed up for either the College Application Campaign, College Goal Washington, or both, and we expect an influx of sign-ups when school starts again in the fall. • <u>GEAR UP Summer Camps</u>: WSAC staff hosted two GEAR UP summer camps, providing postsecondary information to prospective high school students. • <u>GEAR UP Conference</u>: WSAC GEAR UP staff joined representatives from WA GEAR UP schools, as well as staff from GEAR UP programs nationwide at the 2015 National Council for Community and Education Partnerships (NCCEP)/GEAR UP annual conference in San Francisco July 18-22.
Policy and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Veterans' Residency Bill</u>: The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has confirmed that Washington is now compliant with Section 702, signaling that veterans in Washington will be able to use their VA benefits to attend college. • <u>WaACRAO Presentations</u>: Staff from WSAC presented on several topics at the annual Washington Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers (WaACRAO). • <u>Prior Learning Assessment Webinar</u>: WSAC staff participated as a panel member in a national webinar focused on building credit for prior learning into institutional culture. • <u>Prior Learning Assessment Workgroup</u>: The PLA Workgroup, convened by WSAC, met on August 5th to discuss implementation of policies for veterans to meet requirements of SB 5969 (veterans' residency legislation), passed last year. • <u>Improving Student Learning at Scale (ISLS)</u>: NGA has extended Washington's grant through December 2015 and awarded Washington with an additional \$25,000. The ISLS team plans to allocate a portion of that money to the development of communications materials related to the Smarter Balanced implementation. • <u>Washington Assistive Technology Transferability (WATT) Workgroup</u>: The Disability Task Force recommended the formation of the WATT workgroup in their 2014 report to the Legislature. The WATT workgroup held their first meeting in July, and will work to identify and address barriers associated with the transferability of assistive technology from K-12 to postsecondary education and training for students with disabilities.
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SFA Trainings</u>: WSAC financial aid staff continue to provide training and guidance related to program administration. • <u>GET</u>: In the July 13th meeting the GET Committee began formal discussions about next steps for GET in response to the College Affordability Act.

Draft - 2016 Meeting Dates	
February 10	ESD 113 (Tumwater)
April 13	Puget Sound ESD (Renton)
June 15	Whitman College (Walla Walla)
August 17	Eastern Washington University (Cheney)
October 12	TBD - Possibly South Seattle Community College (Seattle)
November 9	TBD - Possibly State Board for Community & Technical College (Olympia)



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Dr. Gene Sharratt, Executive Director

Council Meeting | August 13, 2015



WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
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TWO-MONTH REVIEW

The Executive Director update will highlight the agency's efforts related to our statutory mission and program administration.

The two-month summary chart provides a synopsis of agency efforts since the last Council meeting.



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Agency Update Two-Month Executive Summary

Project	Recent Work
Outreach and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> College Bound Scholarship: Staff attended three CBS events in April in May, including a UWIT event that drew over 800 students. GEAR UP: This spring, the WSAC GEAR UP team created two new awards. The first recognizes high-achieving students from GEAR UP schools. These award celebrates exemplary GEAR UP coordinators who work in support of all GEAR UP students. FAPSA Completion Initiative: As of May 29, 140 school districts have signed on to participate in the FAPSA Completion Initiative, which provides student-level FAPSA completion data to district personnel.
Policy and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Gold Gavel Award: WSAC received the ESD 105 Golden Gavel Award, in honor of the agency's commitment to strengthening secondary to postsecondary transitions. Veterans: WSAC staff continue its support of veterans' transitions through multiple events with Governor Inslee's Veterans Employee Resource Group. ISLS: The ISLS work will continue past its original deadline of June 30th, due in large part to an opportunity from the NGA to extend the duration of the grant and receive additional funding. T Dual Credit: WSAC staff presented at the May 7 National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment, providing insights to our state's efforts to strengthen college transitions and expand dual credit opportunities for Washington students.
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFA Trainings: Financial aid staff presented state aid workshops at six locations across the state with nearly 200 aid administrators in attendance from the 68 participating institutions. Health Loan Repayment Program: The federal Health Professional Loan Repayment program received 85 applications for the 2015 cycle, and approximately 13 professionals will be selected to receive funding to repay student loans due to their commitment to serving as a health care professional in a critical shortage area. Financial Aid – Institution Application: WSAC staff are reviewing an application from an institution (Victoria's Academy of Cosmetology) to participate in state financial aid. GET: Unit purchases at this year's price can still be made through June 25, and are currently tracking about 6 percent above the same time last year, with over 490,000 units sold as of June 1

AGENCY WORK

Highlights of current efforts in support of the agency mission.

POLICY & RESEARCH

Veterans support legislation, WaACRAO presentations, prior learning assessment webinar and workgroup, ISLS, WATT Workgroup.

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

FAFSA completion initiative, CBS sign ups, GEAR UP summer camps, NCCEP/GEAR UP conference.

PROGRAMS

SFA trainings, GET.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

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