

Title	Executive Update
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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 Only <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



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Dr. Gene Sharratt, Executive Director | Council Meeting | April 8, 2015



WASHINGTON STUDENT
ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS



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.

WASHINGTON STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL
EDUCATION · OPPORTUNITY · RESULTS

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Agency Update
Two-Month Executive Summary

Project	Recent Work
Outreach and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State Early Financial Aid Commitment Summit: The State Early Financial Aid Commitment Summit provided an opportunity for attendees to discuss best practices in the implementation of early commitment programs (e.g., College Bound). FAFSA Completion Initiative: The Washington FAFSA Completion Initiative will empower district leaders to identify and assist students who have not completed the FAFSA form. College Goal Washington: Over 75 high schools, colleges, and universities will be hosting College Goal events in January and February. Test Fees: WSAC will shortly sign an agreement with College Board whereby all free and reduced eligible students in Washington will receive free PSAT and SAT assessments (waivers are currently available but hard to access).
Policy and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ISLS: The work of the ISLS will likely extend beyond the grant cycle (ending in June 2015). Dual Credit: The WSAC Dual Credit Workgroup will reconvene in March to begin work on policy recommendations relating to Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, and Cambridge programs. SBAC: Washington was identified by U.S. Department of Education as a leading state in the implementation of the Common Core State Standards (CCSS), the new tests, and alignment with college placement. ABLE - Federal Legislation: The ABLE (Achieving a Better Life Experience) Act of 2014 allows families and individuals to save through a tax-advantaged account for future qualified expenses associated with the care of a person with a disability. Veterans: Over 23,000 veterans, service and family members enrolled in degree granting institutions and receiving GI Bill benefits in Washington.
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SFA Trainings: The student financial aid division is working with institutions to ensure compliance with state aid program requirements using data to provide focused training. SFA Reports: Over 250 students enrolled in short-term training programs received loans in 2013-14 (Aerospace Report). WASFA Launch: The Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) went "live" for the 2015-16 academic year on January 1. GET: In the first two months, customers opened 1,607 new accounts (up 10 percent over last year), and participants have added 185,071 units to their accounts (up 20 percent over this time last year). Affordability Model: Rachelle Sharpe co-presented with Jim Fridley at Oxford to a symposium on the financing of education in early December regarding the Affordability Interactive Model at Oxford.

MEETINGS AND OUTREACH

Presentations; advocacy;
partnerships.

POLICY & RESEARCH

College admissions; NGA
Alliance; dual credit; college
readiness; Pave the Way.

OUTREACH & ADVOCACY

College Bound Scholarship;
GEAR UP; FAFSA Completion
Initiative.

PROGRAMS

SFA trainings; state aid
programs; Washington
Scholars; WASFA launch;
GET.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS



Council Member
Jeff Charbonneau
and Secretary of
Education, Arnie
Duncan



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**Agency Update
Two-Month Executive Summary**

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Outreach and advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>College Bound Scholarship</u>: In March, State Superintendent Randy Dorn and Washington Student Achievement Council Executive Director Gene Sharratt wrote to 476 individual 2015 College Bound champions to recognize their commitment to students and their dedication to promoting the College Bound Scholarship. • <u>GEAR UP</u>: The Washington State GEAR UP program provided two professional development events for their school-based staff and administrators from 27 school districts. • <u>FAFSA Completion Initiative</u>: The FAFSA Completion Initiative provides participating districts and high schools with data on which students in their schools have completed a FAFSA and which have not.
Policy and research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>College Admissions</u>: WSAC staff has initiated a periodic review of the minimum college admission standards. • <u>NGA Alliance</u>: The March 6 meeting included a review of the proposed work plan and legislative priorities. • <u>Dual Credit</u>: WSAC staff added a dual credit look-up tool to the ever-expanding resources available on the Ready Set Grad website. • <u>College Readiness</u>: ICW recently joined our public two-year and four-year institutions with an agreement to ensure that students who do well on the assessment have a clear pathway to college level course when they get on campus. • <u>Pave the Way</u>: The 2015 conference, set for October 5-6 in Tacoma, will engage participants with a common interest in diversity and equity topics and will address issues related to race, ethnicity, gender, income, and ability.
Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>SFA Trainings</u>: The student financial aid division has conducted on site state financial aid program reviews as needed. • <u>State Aid Programs</u>: Everest College-Renton withdrew its appeal to the office of administrative hearings to the Council's intent to terminate the institution from participation in state aid programs. • <u>Washington Scholars</u>: For the graduating class of 2015, school district staff nominated 653 students for the award. All will be recognized as Washington Scholars. This compares with 575 nominations last year, of which 147 students were recognized. • <u>WASFA Launch</u>: As of this writing, over 1,800 students have applied for 2015-16; over 2,400 applied in 2014-15. • <u>GET</u>: Since inception, over 40,000 students have used GET to help pay for school, and the program has now paid out over \$660 million in benefits!