

January 2016

From the Director

Hello SFA Partners,

Everyone is off to a busy winter! The Legislature is now in session. Students and parents are completing FAFSAs and WASFAs. Quarter schools are starting their winter terms and semester schools will soon begin their next terms. All institutions will begin making their initial 2016-17 financial aid awards in the weeks and months to come!

We hope the information in this second edition of **SFA Partner** is both timely and relevant. You will see from the list of topics that follow that there are quite a few items to be watching and reviewing.

Later in the spring, after the legislative session has ended, we will issue final 2016-17 State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship award charts, and we will be deciding on the dates and locations for the annual SFA Workshops.

In the meantime, we encourage you to share this issue of **SFA Partner** with other colleagues at your institution, and to encourage them to <u>subscribe</u> to the **SFA Partner** if they have not already done so. Also, if you have suggestions or other ideas for future topics to include, please be sure to share your <u>feedback</u> with us.

Wishing everyone a wonderful winter season!

Becky Thompson Director of Student Financial Assistance

Click on these links to learn more about the following topics:

- Important Dates to Remember
- WASFA Application Tool for 2016-17
- 2016 Legislative Session and the State Supplemental Budget
- CSAW 2.0 released on January 21, 2016- NEW!
- Winter Interim Reports for SNG and CBS due February 5, 2016
 - <u>Guidance Updating Enrollment Statuses for Unserved SNG on Interim Reports</u>
 - <u>Guidance Coordination of State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship Awards</u>
- <u>2016-17 Awarding Tools for SNG and CBS Programs</u>
 - 2016-17 MFI Chart for SNG and CBS Eligibility
 - Tentative 2016-17 SNG and CBS Award Charts
 - <u>SNG Allocations for 2016-17</u>

- Expired DACA Status, Residency, and Student Eligibility for State Aid Programs
- <u>2015-16 Mid-Year SWS Update and Reminders</u>
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Important Dates to Remember:

- ✓ 2016-17 WASFA Application went live on January 4
- ✓ 2016 Legislature convened January 11, 2016 for a 60-day "short" session
- ✓ CSAW 2.0 released on January 21, 2016
- ✓ Winter Interim Reports for SNG and CBS due February 5, 2016

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WASFA Application Tool for 2016-17

The 2016-17 Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) went live on January 4. WSAC will use the same application tool (Need Access) for the coming year. To review WASFA data for your students, login to the Need Access application tool using the same WASFA/Need Access login credentials as last year. To apply for a login for new staff, contact <u>sng@wsac.wa.gov</u>.

Noteworthy changes to the 2016-17 WASFA application:

- Applicants can now indicate DACA status and express interest in State Work Study. If your
 institution uses the ISIR conversion tool, the 2016-17 version will be available in late January, after
 testing of all ISIR components.
- Students may view custom messages from institutions upon completion of their application, if WSAC has received a custom message request for that purpose from that college.

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2016 Legislative Session and the State Supplemental Budget

The 2016 Legislature officially convened on Monday, January 11, to begin the 60-day "short" session. While this Session does not wrestle with the enactment of a full, two-year state budget, the members will continue to face some difficult choices as they address the critical needs of the state.

The Governor released his supplemental budget proposal in December to kick off the current discussions.

In terms of financial aid, the Governor's budget adheres to the tuition reductions that were proposed for the biennium, and continues the funding to serve projections in College Bound with full coordination with State Need Grant, and does not serve additional students in SNG.

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CSAW 2.0 released on January 21, 2016 - NEW!

WSAC staff currently are testing an improved version of the College Bound and State Need Grant Award Warehouse (CSAW) for the WSAC Portal. The roll-out date to institutions was January 21, 2016—just prior to the Interim Report deadline. Improvements include:

- The ability to include Passport to College Scholarship awards in the upload file.
- A more intuitive payment request screen.
- A revamped summary of account status.

Please note that this new version of CSAW does not require that institutions make any programming changes! Instructions and screenshots were sent to all colleges at the time of the new release.

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Winter Interim Reports for SNG and CBS due February 5, 2016 – portal opens Jan. 25

- Guidance Updating Enrollment Statuses for Unserved SNG on Interim Reports
 - You should have procedures in place to update the enrollment statuses for all terms, for all SNG unserved students, reported on interim reports as eligible enrolled students. This reporting is a critical part of the SNG institutional allocation process. If students are found to be misreported, it may result in your institution's SNG allocation being decreased for either the current or the next year.
 - In addition, if you have students who were initially reported as enrolled but whose financial aid was taken away for that term due to failure to prove participation for the term, their SNG enrollment status must be changed to show them as not enrolled for that term.

Guidance – Coordination of State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship Awards

- Aid administrators are reminded that 100% coordination between College Bound Scholarship (CBS) and State Need Grant (SNG) awards is required for all enrollment terms, including summer terms.
- Every eligible College Bound Scholar must receive a maximum SNG each term. The amount of the CBS award is determined after SNG and any other state grant aid has been awarded.
 - This guidance is located in the 2015-16 SNG/CBS manual under the "Updates" and "Reminders" sections, on pages i and iii. We appreciate each of you for your efforts to implement these new requirements.

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2016-17 Awarding Tools for SNG and CBS Programs

• 2016-17 Median Family Income(MFI) SNG and CBS Eligibility

Note: This chart was emailed to colleges on January 15, 2016, from Carissa Glassburn.

Median Family Income (MFI) Levels for 2016-17 State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship Program Eligibility							
Family Size	50%	55%	60%	65% (CBS Maximum)	70% (SNG Maximum)		
1	\$22,000	\$24,500	\$26,500	\$28,500	\$31,000		
2	\$29,000	\$32,000	\$34,500	\$37,500	\$40,500		
3	\$35,500	\$39,500	\$43,000	\$46,500	\$50,000		
4	\$42,500	\$47,000	\$51,000	\$55,500	\$59,500		
5	\$49,500	\$54,000	\$59,000	\$64,000	\$69,000		
6	\$56,000	\$61,500	\$67,500	\$73,000	\$78,500		
7	\$57,500	\$63,000	\$69,000	\$74,500	\$80,500		
8	\$58,500	\$64,500	\$70,500	\$76,500	\$82,000		
9	\$60,000	\$66,000	\$72,000	\$78,000	\$84,000		
10	\$61,000	\$67,500	\$73,500	\$79,500	\$85,500		
11	\$62,500	\$68,500	\$75,000	\$81,000	\$87,500		
12	\$64,000	\$70,000	\$76,500	\$83,000	\$89,500		
13	\$65,000	\$71,500	\$78,000	\$84,500	\$91,000		
14	\$66,500	\$73,000	\$79,500	\$86,000	\$93,000		
15	\$67,500	\$74,500	\$81,000	\$88,000	\$94,500		
16	\$69,000	\$75,500	\$82,500	\$89,500	\$96,500		
17	\$70,000	\$77,000	\$84,000	\$91,000	\$98,000		
18	\$71,500	\$78,500	\$85,500	\$93,000	\$100,000		
19	\$72,500	\$80,000	\$87,000	\$94,500	\$102,000		
20	\$74,000	\$81,500	\$89,000	\$96,000	\$103,500		

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Tentative 2016-17 SNG and CBS Award Amounts

This chart also was included with the January 15 email to you from Carissa Glassburn. This may be used by colleges in their early awarding to students. Please be sure to indicate that all amounts are tentative, subject to change.

A tentative SNG award chart also can be found in Carissa's email. Later this spring, after the legislative session has concluded, WSAC will email all colleges the final award amounts that can be used for determining 2016-17 SNG and CBS awards.

The award amounts below are tentative and SUBJECT TO

CHANGE per legislative, board and trustee action.

Maximum award amounts for eligible students enrolled full-time for 3 quarters/2 semesters

PRELIMINARY ESTIMATED 2016-17 Maximum State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship Award Amounts for 3 Quarters/ 2 Semesters							arters/ 2			
	Median Family Income									
Institution/Sector	CBS Max	0% - 50%	0% - 50%	51% - 55%	51% - 55%	55% - 60%	55% - 60%	61% - 65%	61% - 65%	66%-70%
	SNG + CBS = Full CBS Award®	(full SNG award)	CBS Amount	(70% of full SNG award)	CBS Amount	(65% of full SNG award)	CBS Amount	(60% of full SNG award)	CBS Amount	SNG ONLY(50% of full award)
University of Washington	\$10,499	\$9,348	\$1,151	\$6,544	\$3,955	\$6,076	\$4,423	\$5,609	\$4,890	\$4,674
Washington State University	\$10,260	\$9,369	\$891	\$6,558	\$3,702	\$6,090	\$4,170	\$5,621	\$4,639	\$4,685
Central Washington University	\$ 6,913	\$ 6,293	\$620	\$4,405	\$2,508	\$4,090	\$2,823	\$3,776	\$3,137	\$3,147
Eastern Washington University& Applied Bachelor's	\$ 6,453	\$ 5,947	\$ 506	\$ 4,163	\$ 2,290	\$ 3,866	\$ 2,587	\$ 3,568	\$ 2,885	\$ 2,974
The Evergreen State College	\$ 6,825	\$ 6,268	\$ 557	\$ 4,388	\$ 2,437	\$ 4,074	\$ 2,751	\$ 3,761	\$ 3,064	\$ 3,134
Western Washington University	\$ 7,031	\$ 6,495	\$ 536	\$ 4,547	\$ 2,485	\$ 4,222	\$ 2,809	\$ 3,897	\$ 3,134	\$ 3,248
Private Four-year	\$ 11,904	\$ 8,517	\$ 3,387	\$ 5,962	\$ 5,942	\$ 5,536	\$ 6,368	\$ 5,110	\$ 6,794	\$ 4,259
WGU-Washington	\$ 6,280	\$ 5,619	\$ 661	\$ 3,933	\$ 2,347	\$ 3,652	\$ 2,628	\$ 3,371	\$ 2,909	\$ 2,810
Community & Technical Colleges*	\$ 4,300	\$ 3,541	\$ 759	\$ 2,479	\$ 1,821	\$ 2,302	\$ 1,998	\$ 2,125	\$ 2,175	\$ 1,771
Private Career	\$ 4,467	\$ 2,823	\$ 1,644	\$ 1,976	\$ 2,491	\$ 1,835	\$ 2,632	\$ 1,694	\$ 2,773	\$ 1,412
Dependent Care Allowance		\$ 906		\$ 634		\$ 589		\$ 544		\$ 453

1/14/2016

SNG Allocations for 2016-17

- WSAC advises colleges to be conservative in the level of SNG funding offered for 2016-17. Many factors impact individual school allocations: enrollment fluctuations, award amounts, state appropriations and program policies such as coordination.
- WSAC will provide initial SNG allocation guidance after the 2016 legislative session, which is anticipated by late March.
- ^a Further guidance will be provided in June with final allocations made after the final 2015-16 report data is reconciled, anticipated by early August 2016.

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Expired DACA Status, Residency, and Student Eligibility for State Aid Programs

WSAC staff recently received a question about residency and the effect of expired DACA status (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) on eligibility for state-funded student aid programs. DACA approval (granted by the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services Department) is valid for a two-year period. The process involves submission of multiple forms and fees. Renewal requires reapplication and additional fees.

 DACA status must be valid at the time residency determination is made at an institution but once a student has been determined to be a Washington resident at that institution, the student's residency status is not re-evaluated even if the student's DACA status later expires.

- State Work Study (SWS) SWS requires that DACA students have a valid work authorization. An expired DACA status would likely make a student ineligible for SWS.
- Please also review pages 6 and 7 of the 2015-16 State Need Grant and College Bound Scholarship Program Manual in order to see all of the options for residency for both the SNG and CBS programs. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact WSAC staff.

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2015-16 Mid-Year State Work Study (SWS) Update and Reminders

• SWS Expenditures

Thank you to institutions for your diligent work to ensure that SWS opportunities are maximized by eligible students. Current 2015-16 expenditures are on track for 100 percent utilization. WSAC was able to provide supplemental SWS funding during the November Survey Round to institutions indicating the capacity for additional student earnings.

Please continue to carefully monitor your 2015-16 expenditures so that funds that may go unearned at your institution can be transferred in a timely fashion to institutions in need of additional SWS resources. SWS intends to conduct two more 2015-16 Survey Rounds in February and May 2016.

• SWS State Minimum Wage

Washington's minimum wage will stay the same in 2016 at \$9.47 per hour. For more information, please visit Washington State Department of Labor & Industries.

• SWS Local Minimum Wages

SWS comparability rules require that SWS student employees are paid comparably to what a non-student would earn in the same position. When local laws require a higher minimum wage (per the examples below), the minimum wage for SWS students must be aligned with the local minimum in order to maintain comparability and to fully comply with the state's minimum wage law 49.46.RCW.

Seattle Minimum Wage as of January 1, 2016:

- ^a For employers with fewer than 500 employees, the minimum will increase to \$12 per hour.
- ^a For employers with 500 employees or more, the minimum will increase to \$13 per hour.

Sea-Tac Minimum Wage as of January 1, 2016:

^a All Sea-Tac employers must pay the current city minimum of \$15.24 per hour.

Tacoma Minimum Wage as of February 1, 2016:

^a All Tacoma employers will be required to pay a minimum wage of \$10.35 per hour.

For SWS employers hiring student employees from private institutions, WSAC will manage local 2016 minimum wage requirements by internally raising the minimum pay rate associated with affected job descriptions as necessary. WSAC expects public institutions to continue to ensure that the comparability of SWS wages for employers subject to higher local minimum wages by adjusting minimum pay rates as necessary.

WSAC will be reaching out to affected employers and Student Employment Administrators in early January to share more information in this area. Please contact SWS staff with questions or concerns.

SWS Washington Application for State Financial Aid (WASFA) Students completing the WASEA may be digible for SWS if the students

Students completing the WASFA may be eligible for SWS if the student:

- is authorized to work in the United States as a result of participation in the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program (DACA);
- can demonstrate residency and need via the WASFA; and
- meets all other SWS eligibility criteria.

Please note that the 2016-17 WASFA will include a question that provides an opportunity for DACA participants to indicate their interest in SWS.

• SWS 2014-15 Outcomes

Thank you to institutions for providing your SWS service data during the 2014-15 Unit Record Report process. The data you provide is essential in representing program outcomes to policy-makers and the public. In 2014-15, nearly 4,500 students helped themselves pay for college by grossing more than \$12.5 million in financial aid earnings, including more than \$5 million in employer matching contributions. Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of SWS and its participating student employees!

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Passport to College Manual for 2015-16

• The 2015-16 Passport to College Scholarship program manual is now available on the Council website at http://www.wsac.wa.gov/FAA-resources

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College Goal Washington

A big shout-out to SFA volunteers and host institutions participating in College Goal Washington events across the state, taking place mostly in the months of January and February! These annual events are free, onsite programs to assist families with step-by-step instructions to successfully complete and submit the FAFSA or WASFA. This is a huge effort, and one that benefits families, providing support as they navigate what to them may be a daunting and intimidating process securing financial assistance for their students.

There is still time to volunteer at a location near you. If you are interested, please fill out the <u>Google Form</u>. Your name, email, and availability will be given to the site leads. They will contact you with specific requests.

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2014-15 Unit Record Report News

• Institutional Profile Reports – The Unit Record Report reviews were finalized and closed on Dec. 18. Thank you to everyone for your hard work to submit reports on time, and for your prompt responses to resolve residual questions arising from WSAC records and institutional data. Your efforts afford WSAC staff the ability to effectively administer the state-funded programs. On January 11, we notified all URR college administrators that their 2014-15 reports were now available through the portal.

• Early notice – 2015-16 Edit for Reporting of Aid in Non-Enrolled Terms – Beginning with the 2015-16 Unit Record Report submission, a new overrideable edit will identify student records that show aid disbursed in academic terms marked "Not Enrolled" asking for the student's actual enrollment status to be reported. The edit will exempt, however, those reported as receiving only work study or other work related programs for any specific term(s).

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SFA Staff Updates

- Kerri Chaput recently left WSAC for a position as career center specialist at the Chehalis School District.
- Nicole "Coco" Witty joined us on January 4, as a Program Coordinator in the Conditional Workforce Programs. Coco will assist with application tracking, service processing, customer service inquiries and correspondence with Conditional Workforce participants and Accounts Receivable clients. She previously worked with WSAC in the GET call center.
- Katie Guthrie joined SFA on January 6 as Receivables Coordinator in the Conditional Workforce office. She gained extensive experience with accounts receivable and payables from a previous position before joining WSAC.

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WSAC Connections - Who You Gonna Call?

Please see staffing personnel changes highlighted in yellow, below:

	0 0 1					
SFA Office of the Director						
Becky Thompson, Director of Student Financial	360-753-7840	beckyt@wsac.wa.gov				
Assistance						
Colleen Scovill, Administrative Specialist	360-753-7850	colleens@wsac.wa.gov				
Toll Free Number - Student referral line	888-535-0747	finaid@wsac.wa.gov	(refer to program mailboxes)			
Need-Based Programs						
State Need Grant/College Bound Programs (S	NG/CBS)					
Carissa Glassburn, Assistant Director	360-753-7841	<u>carissag@wsac.wa.gov</u>	sng@wsac.wa.gov			
Victor Fernandez, Program Specialist	360-753-7623	<u>victorf@wsac.wa.gov</u>	sng@wsac.wa.gov			
Gray Sterling, Program Coordinator	360-753-7784	grays@wsac.wa.gov	sng@wsac.wa.gov			
State Work Study Program (SWS)						
Jeffrey Powell, Program Administrator	360-753-7621	jeffreyp@wsac.wa.gov	sws@wsac.wa.gov			
Marlena Rae Robbins, Program Associate	360-753-7861	<u>marlenar@wsac.wa.gov</u>	sws@wsac.wa.gov			
Jaclyn Molloy, Program Coordinator	360-753-7848	jaclynm@wsac.wa.gov	sws@wsac.wa.gov			
Passport to College (PTC)						
Dawn Cypriano-McAferty, Program Manager	360-753-7846	<u>dawnc@wsac.wa.gov</u>	passporttocollege@wsac.wa.gov			
Receivables – SNG, CBS, PTC						
Katie Guthrie, Receivables Coordinator	360-753-7632	<u>kateg@wsac.wa.gov</u>	sng@wsac.wa.gov			
Merit-Based Programs						
American Indian Endowed Scholarship (AIES)						
Ann Voyles, Program Associate	360-753-7843	annv@wsac.wa.gov	<u>aies@wsac.wa.gov</u>			
Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) and Washington Scholars						
Ann Voyles, Program Associate	360-753-7843	annv@wsac.wa.gov	wave@wsac.wa.gov or			
-		-	wascholars@wsac.wa.gov			
Mary Knutson, Program Manager	360-753-7845	<u>maryk@wsac.wa.gov</u>	wave@wsac.wa.gov or			
			wascholars@wsac.wa.gov			

260 752 7017	corloi@wcoc.wo.gov						
300-733-7647	<u>canalewsac.wa.yov</u>						
240 752 7704	abrique que que						
300-753-7794	<u>chinsw@wsac.wa.gov</u>	<u>alp@wsac.wa.gov</u>					
	maryk@wsac.wa.gov	alt@wsac.wa.gov					
Health Professional Loan Repayment & Scholarship Program Chris Wilkins, Program Manager 360-753-7794 chrisw@wsac.wa.gov health@wsac.wa.gov							
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360-753-7794	<u>chrisw@wsac.wa.gov</u>	jrjustice@wsac.wa.gov					
Workforce Program Support Nicole "Coco" Witty, Program Coordinator 360-753-7793 <u>nicolew@wsac.wa.gov</u>							
360-753-7793	nicolew@wsac.wa.gov						
360-753-7632	<u>kateg@wsac.wa.gov</u>	repayment@wsac.wa.gov					
Institutional Grants							
Child Care Matching Grant Program for 4-Year Public Institutions							
360-753-7845	maryk@wsac.wa.gov	fut@wsac.wa.gov					
ogram (CAMP)							
360-753-7845	<u>maryk@wsac.wa.gov</u>	<u>fut@wsac.wa.gov</u>					
Mary Knutson, <i>Program Manager</i> 360-753-7845 <u>maryk@wsac.wa.gov</u> <u>fut@wsac.wa.gov</u> Other Administrative							
360-753-7521	jeffreyp@wsac.wa.gov						
Jeffrey Powell, Program Administrator 360-753-7521 jeffreyp@wsac.wa.gov Institutional Training & Compliance, Data & Research							
360-753-7851	stevet@wsac.wa.gov						
360-753-7623	victorf@wsac.wa.gov	info@thewashboard.org					
360-753-7851	stevet@wsac.wa.gov	unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov					
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360-753-7843	annv@wsac.wa.gov	unitrecord@wsac.wa.gov					
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Providing Feedback to SFA

The **SFA Partner** was designed with you, our SFA friends and colleagues, in mind! We want to respond to your needs and improve future issues of the **SFA Partner**. Tell us what topic areas you would like covered, and where we may provide additional guidance to better assist you in your work. Send us your feedback, comments, and suggestions by emailing us at <u>finaid@wsac.wa.gov</u> and let us know what you think!

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