



STATE OF WASHINGTON
Office of the Governor

Winter 2020

Dear Washington State High School Senior:

I wanted to let you know some great news that may make it easier for you to go to college. Students entering college next fall will qualify for more state financial aid than ever before. The new Washington College Grant provides more money to a greater number of students for more educational pathways. This is an exciting opportunity for students, starting with your senior class.

Any education after high school — college, apprenticeship, or other training — will expand your career options and increase your earning potential. From welding to nursing, English to computer science, an 18-month certificate or a 4-year college degree, the Washington College Grant and other programs can help.

Unlike student loans, the Washington College Grant is money for your education that you do not need to pay back. Additional programs like the Federal Pell Grant, scholarships, and work-study can also help you pay for your college education or training. Money is available for families making up to the state's median family income, which is approximately \$97,000 per year for a family of four. For many students, these programs may cover a significant portion of your educational expenses.

Our state is projected to have more than 740,000 job openings in the coming years. Most of these jobs will require some kind of education beyond high school, and there is tremendous opportunity for students in Washington to access these good paying jobs and careers.

I hope you take advantage of this new and extraordinary program. There are many resources available to help you take your next steps toward a bright future. Start by talking to your high school academic counselor and visit wsac.wa.gov/pathways to learn more.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Inslee".

Jay Inslee
Governor

