

# NEWSLETTER

February 2024



## FINANCIAL AID 201

Navigating FAFSA Simplification

02/21/2024 - Training  
Follow Up

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Update: PSCCN Partners
- Postsecondary Resources & Opportunities
- February Poem
- College & Career News

## **Empowering Education: The King County Promise**

**In 2017, the journey to establish the King County Promise (KCP) began with a simple yet profound question: How can we ensure equitable access to postsecondary education for all students in our region? The Puget Sound College and Career Network (PSCCN) team, in collaboration with various stakeholders, embarked on a comprehensive exploration of local needs, barriers, and aspirations regarding higher education.**

**The landscape of King County is characterized by wealth and opportunity juxtaposed with significant disparities in postsecondary enrollment and completion rates, especially among students of color and underserved communities. Recognizing this, the KCP initiative was born out of a collective effort involving students, parents, educators, business leaders, and government officials to create a support system tailored to the unique challenges of the region.**

**At its core, KCP aims to provide robust individualized support to historically underserved students, equipping them with the tools and resources necessary to navigate the complexities of postsecondary education. By aligning systems and policies, KCP seeks to dismantle systemic barriers that hinder student success, fostering a more inclusive and equitable educational landscape.**

**Central to the success of KCP is the emphasis on cross-sector collaboration, amplifying youth and family voices, and providing connected advising and navigation supports. Through targeted interventions and strategic partnerships, KCP strives to increase postsecondary attainment rates and empower students to achieve their academic and career aspirations.**

**As KCP continues to evolve, it is essential to reflect on the impact, learnings, and challenges encountered along the way. Strengthened relationships among partners, enhanced youth and family involvement, and a commitment to equity and inclusion have been key drivers of progress. However, ongoing efforts are needed to address remaining challenges, such as clarifying roles between partner organizations and navigating tensions regarding program requirements.**

**Looking ahead, the vision for KCP is one of continued growth and impact. By staying true to its principles of just and humanizing systems in education, KCP endeavors to create a brighter future for all students in King County and beyond.**

**For more information and to support similar initiatives in your community, [visit our website](#).**



# Welcome To *Our Team*



## **Paige Peterson** **PROGRAM COORDINATOR**

Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Paige Peterson, our new Program Coordinator for PSCCN and CINRE at the Puget Sound Educational Service District. With her extensive background in marketing, fundraising, and a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Richmond, Paige brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to our team.

Her previous role at Boys & Girls Clubs of King County provided her with a strong foundation in youth development and fostering a positive team culture, which aligns perfectly with our values. Paige's commitment to equity and inclusion, demonstrated through her involvement in racial equity committees, will be instrumental in advancing our mission.

Outside of work, Paige enjoys spending time with her daughter, Riley, and pursuing her hobbies of crafting and cheering for the Seattle Kraken. Please join us in extending a warm welcome to Paige as she embarks on this new journey with us.



# FINANCIAL AID 201



Navigating FAFSA Simplification

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## **AFTER-TRAINING SUMMARY: FINANCIAL AID 201 WORKSHOP**

Thank you to all who attended Financial Aid 201: Navigating FAFSA Simplification. We were pleased to welcome representatives from esteemed organizations such as the Bethel, Federal Way, Fife, Kent, Tumwater School Districts, NWEA, CCER, CIN, Get Schooled, Seattle Colleges, and many others. For those unable to join, we extend our invitation to access the workshop follow-up training materials and resources.

The workshop aimed to equip attendees with comprehensive knowledge to aid students in navigating the financial aid application process including topics like an overview of FAFSA Simplification, a walkthrough of the FAFSA and WASFA platforms, and an overview of the corrections process and student scenarios. We have linked the presentation and resources shared below:

- [Slide Deck - Financial Aid 201: Navigating FAFSA Simplification](#)
- [Financial Aid Resource Padlet](#)
- [12th Year Campaign Padlet](#)
- College Knowledge Workbooks (PSCCN & WSAC)
  - [Download an electronic version of the College Knowledge in English and Spanish.](#)
  - [Order your hard-copy College Knowledge workbooks.](#)

Your continued commitment to supporting students in their educational journey is invaluable. Together, we can make a significant impact in guiding them towards financial aid success.



# BAM Scholarship

Supporting the continued growth of black employees and encouraging careers in technology.



**Blacks at Microsoft (BAM) Scholarships** will be awarding a total of \$137,500 (USD) to 50 recipients:

- 5 scholarships valued at \$5,000 each, renewable for up to three years or until the completion of a bachelor's degree, contingent upon maintaining a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher, full-time enrollment, and continued pursuit of an eligible major.
- 45 one-time scholarships of \$2,500 each.

These scholarships were established with the mission of enabling access to higher education for underrepresented communities and fostering the development of future tech leaders.

To qualify, applicants must demonstrate a commitment to academic excellence and a passion for pursuing a career in technology. Recipients will join a distinguished community of scholars dedicated to driving innovation and positive change in the industry.

We are proud to support BAM Scholarships in their mission to empower the next generation of diverse talent in the tech sector. Together, we look forward to creating pathways for success and inspiring excellence in our communities.

For more information on BAM Scholarships and how to apply, [please visit this website](#).

## **GRANTS FOR WASHINGTON STATE K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS!**



Applications are now being accepted for the “Ellison Education Grants”. [Grants are for K-12 public school teachers in Washington State](#). Over the past six years, the Ellison foundation has awarded 101 grants and \$501,000 to Washington State teachers.

Grants will range from \$1,000 to \$10,000 and be awarded this spring to be used for the 2024 – 2025 school year. Applications must be submitted by March 30, 2024.

[Click on the link to learn more about the “Ellison Education Grants.”](#)



# WWIN Star Scholars

## Empower Your Students with the WWIN Star Scholarship!

Each WWIN Star Scholar is granted up to \$5,000 annually to support their academic journey. This scholarship can be renewed each year, providing ongoing financial assistance up to graduation with a first bachelor's degree or up to a total of \$20,000.

The application window for the 2024-2025 academic year is now open.

Applications will be accepted online until **April 18, 2024, at 11:59 pm PT.**

Encourage your students to [apply today](#) and embark on a journey towards a brighter tomorrow.



## 2024 Scholarship for Under-Represented Educational Leaders

The application process for the 2024 Gallagher Howard M. Coble Scholarship for Under-Represented Educational Leaders is now open!

This \$5,000 scholarship is tailored to support talented educators from under-represented backgrounds pursuing graduate studies in educational leadership, gearing them towards central office positions.

To apply, [visit the WASA website](#) or [click here for the application](#).

**Deadline: March 27, 2024.**

# FEBRUARY POETRY

## CONTESTS OPPORTUNITIES FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS 2024-2025

Encourage your students to explore their potential through a range of exciting competitions tailored for high schoolers. From writing to the arts, these opportunities offer cash prizes, publication avenues, and industry exposure. With diverse themes and formats, every student can find their perfect fit. For more information, [visit this website.](#)



# College and Career News in Washington State

The Seattle Times:

- WA wants school districts to keep better track of truant students
- Teachers, tech execs among those who want to serve on Seattle School Board
- Money in college savings accounts can now go toward retirement
- WA public universities give applicants more decision time amid FAFSA woes
- First woman to lead Seattle Pacific University takes on steep challenges
- Biden administration cancels \$1.2B in student loans
- Student, parents left 'in limbo' as FAFSA delays continue
- \$1 Billion Donation Will Provide Free Tuition at New York Medical School



**Thank you for your continued support.  
Contact us at [pscnc@psed.org](mailto:pscnc@psed.org)**