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E-NEWSLETTER

Issue

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## Attend a College Goal Sunday Washington Event

College Goal Sunday (CGS) events give students and their family free, on-site professional help with the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

The FAFSA is an important application for financial aid. It is required for most loans and grants, and some scholarships.

CGS events are taking place during January across the state. Find an event near you.

## Free Online Workshops

Join the Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA) for FREE online workshops to learn more about how to prepare for, get into, and pay for college. Register at [events.nela.net](http://events.nela.net).

## Learn More

TheWashBoard.org is supported by a public/private collaboration -- the Washington Scholarship Coalition -- which includes private foundations, nonprofit organizations, and state agencies.

Web-based demos are offered weekly. Contact Mary Beth Lambert to learn more.

[TheWashBoard.org](http://TheWashBoard.org) is a free, web-based scholarship clearinghouse that matches Washington scholarship seekers with Washington scholarship providers. Nearly 90,000 scholarship seekers and 215 providers are registered. More than \$30 million in available awards for next year!

## Improvements & Enhancements

Several enhancements have recently been made to theWashBoard.org, based on your feedback, to add more value for scholarship providers.

### 1. Greater flexibility in adding "ad-hoc" scholarship criteria

As in the past, you may request a new criteria be added to theWashBoard.org using the REQUEST CRITERIA button. TheWashBoard.org can now accommodate these requests more easily and has a new capability to present them to seekers in a more organized fashion.

### 2. Better control over the appearance of the printed application

For providers accepting applications online at theWashBoard.org, you now have more control over which seeker responses will print on the application. This allows you to keep personal information private and is one step closer to ensuring that only the criteria needed for your scholarship appear, streamlining the review effort.

### 3. Control over offer/award notification emails sent to applicants

You are now in control over what text gets sent in an offer or award email and when it is sent. NOTE: This can be used by providers who accept applications online at theWashBoard.org or by those who use a URL redirect. Those who use the mail-in option do not have email capability via theWashBoard.org.

### 4. Ability to add documents to applicants online application

For those providers that use theWashBoard.org to handle applications, you can now add a document to the student application packet. This is a great way to handle transcripts or letters that may have been submitted by mail and to keep the entire application file online.

Want to see a demonstration of these new features? Please send a



message to [info@theWashBoard.org](mailto:info@theWashBoard.org) to request a 20 minute web-based demo.

THANK YOU for your continued dedication to making scholarships more accessible to students in Washington! Look for other important updates to Version 2.0 over the course of the winter and spring.

## Scholarship Video Contest

TheWashBoard.org Scholarship Video Contest is a joint effort by theWashBoard.org, Scholarship Junkies, College Spark Washington, and the Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA) to encourage students to engage more actively in their own scholarship search.

Students are invited to create a 60 second video that answers the question *Why are scholarships important to you?*

Washington high school seniors, or current college students, who will enroll in college at least half-time beginning fall 2012, are eligible.

The deadline is January 31, 2012. FAQs, the submission form, and scholarship rules can be found at [www.thewashboardcontest.org](http://www.thewashboardcontest.org).

Questions? Email [info@thewashboardcontest.org](mailto:info@thewashboardcontest.org).

## Renew Your Scholarship

Scholarship providers registered on theWashBoard.org, it's time to renew and update your scholarships. Below are steps to get you started:

1. Log-in to your account.
2. Click on OUR SCHOLARSHIPS in the top green menu bar.
3. Click on the name of the scholarship you wish to renew.
4. At the bottom left of the page, click the button that says "Copy Scholarship for Next Academic Year."
5. Voila! A new scholarship has been created for the 2012-2013 academic year.
6. Review your criteria and make changes to due dates, award amounts, etc.
7. ACTIVATE the listing when it's updated and complete.

Questions? Contact Customer Service or call 888-535-0747(ext 8).

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Partners: College Planning Network / College Spark Washington / College Success Foundation / The Greater Tacoma Community Foundation / Independent Colleges of Washington / Northwest Dollars For Scholars / Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA) / The Seattle Foundation / Washington Higher Education Coordinating Board (HECB)



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