



Workforce Board awards \$1.1 million in scholarships

Merit-based awards support career and technical education statewide

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OLYMPIA — More than 100 high school seniors and community college students have been awarded the 2023 Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE).

This merit-based scholarship honors Washington's top career and technical education students.

A committee of business, labor and education leaders selected 108 winners through a highly competitive process. This year's award pays about \$5,200 per year, for up to two years. Awards vary depending on student financial situations and tuition at the college they attend.

Many awardees have focused on industries facing labor shortages, including advanced manufacturing, early childhood education, automotive technology, nursing, agriculture, carpentry, web development and more.

"The Washington Award for Vocational Excellence removes barriers to education and living wage jobs," Workforce Board Co-Chair Larry Brown says. **"Our winners were selected through an open and equitable review process. The WAVE program is an outstanding public investment in middle class jobs and Washington's future."**

"The Workforce Board is proud to support the many outstanding opportunities offered by career and technical education," Workforce Board Co-Chair Gary Chandler says. **"This is a great program that directly impacts the many Washington employers facing labor shortages. We look forward to working with the Legislature to increase next year's funding."**

A list of this year's winners is located [here](#).

Additionally, this year's winners represent:

- 78 graduating high school seniors
- 30 community and technical college students
- 45 legislative districts
- 24 Washington counties
- 63 high schools
- 16 colleges
- Rural, urban and suburban communities

The WAVE is a merit-based award that helps undergraduate students pay for tuition and other costs at Washington colleges, universities and private career schools. Career and technical education students from Washington high schools and public community and technical colleges are eligible to apply. The program is funded by the Washington Legislature.

The scholarship is administered by Washington's [Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board](#), which serves as the state's policy lead on how career and technical education is delivered across the state. The [Washington Student Achievement Council](#) manages distribution of the WAVE scholarship.

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About the Workforce Board:

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board is a partnership of business, labor and government dedicated to helping Washington residents succeed in family-wage jobs, while meeting employer needs for skilled workers.

The Board's vision is that every Washington community is thriving, inclusive and economically resilient. Learn more at <https://wtb.wa.gov/>.