

Washington “Shot of a Lifetime” Vaccine Lottery Implementation Update

September 2021

Washington’s public four-year college and universities remain committed to the health and safety of our students and employees throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Washington’s vaccine incentive lottery is one more example of shared leadership to achieve a healthy and safe return to learning and to ensure students have access to quality higher education to meet their education and career goals.

In June, Governor Inslee announced a range of [incentives](#) to encourage unvaccinated Washingtonians to get the COVID-19 vaccine. They included lottery cash drawings, sports tickets, gift cards, and airline tickets. Another incentive involved free tuition and expenses for students at a Washington public four-year college or university or community and technical college using the following requirements and criteria:

1. Institutions conduct the drawing in July 2021.
2. Institutions choose how to determine qualified winners.
3. The prizes range in amount from \$1,000 to \$10,000.
4. Students eligible for the incentive must be Washington residents, enrolled for six or more credits in the spring 2021 term, have not graduated or completed at the end of spring 2021 and provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination.

Soon after the Governor’s announcement, Council of Presidents (COP) staff were contacted by Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) staff for assistance in developing implementation parameters and guidance. This work was made urgent by the requirement of a July award timeframe. COP and our member institutions played a key role in the vaccine incentive rollout in the following ways:

1. Organized meetings with college and university financial aid officers and WSAC financial aid staff to discuss student eligibility parameters and implementation timeframes.
2. Connected college and university representatives with WSAC business staff to draft and sign interagency agreements.
3. Provided edits and recommendations for written implementation guidance.

With the foundation for implementation in place and the support of WSAC, our sector began the of process identifying eligible students at the college or university level.

First, each of our college and universities developed a plan to implement the vaccine lottery. Institutional approaches differed to reflect respective student populations and campus resources available for this initiative. Due to the tight timeline established by the governor’s office, the priority was to widely communicate information about the vaccine incentive lottery to encourage students to get vaccinated in time to meet the eligibility parameters. Our college and universities employed the expertise of multiple campus departments, including offices of student affairs and marketing, to develop student emails, communication materials, and webpages. Here are some examples from [Evergreen](#), [WSU](#), and [WWU](#). [Social media](#) was also utilized in order to spread the word.



Secondly, in many cases, offices of institutional research were involved to identify eligible students. Teaming up with offices of student financial services, institutional data leads identified all students who met the eligibility guidelines. Across the public four-year sector, thousands of students were identified as eligible to participate in the vaccine lottery.

Lastly, within the identified pool of eligible, fully vaccinated students from across all Washington public four-year institutions, 110 students were selected to receive a \$1,000 scholarship at their respective institution. The 10 students from each campus were chosen under the observation of institutional administrative staff and with the use of unbiased random selection software.

As a result, our sector has awarded all funds made available under this initiative. This totaled \$110,000 in funds awarded directly to students. Our sector’s work underscores the strong appreciation and value of partnerships across our sector among students, families, staff, faculty and our communities to do our part to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

In collaboration with public health and state and local leaders, COP and our member institutions have collaboratively and comprehensively worked on a myriad of COVID-19 prevention and response efforts over the past 18 months. We will continue to focus on the safety of all our students, employees, and committees as we work to fulfill our missions in service to Washington state.

Each of our institutions has created a dedicated webpage for COVID-19 related updates. These links have the most up-to-date details about class and campus operations, housing, and all university activities:

- ▶ [Central Washington University](#)
 - ▶ [Eastern Washington University](#)
 - ▶ [The Evergreen State College](#)
 - ▶ [University of Washington](#)
 - ▶ [Washington State University](#)
 - ▶ [Western Washington University](#)
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