

BECU POSTSECONDARY SUPPORT FACT SHEET

Data shows that postsecondary education correlates with greater lifelong earning potential. Inspired by these studies, BECU, Washington’s largest financial cooperative, partners with local nonprofits, colleges and universities, and lending services to help provide access to education and support degree completion. By offering financial assistance and hands-on educational opportunities that stem beyond the classroom, BECU hopes to foster skills that will lead to long-term success.

Financial Assistance through Scholarships

- **BECU Foundation Scholarships:** [The BECU Foundation](#) is a charitable private foundation that recognizes and awards scholarships each year to qualified graduating high school seniors or undergraduate student members. Students must be currently enrolled in a two-year, four-year, or technical college or university. Since 1995, the BECU Foundation has awarded more than \$3.4 million in scholarships to more than 1,250 students.
 - In 2021, the BECU Foundation supported [Washington State Opportunity Scholars \(WSOS\)](#) with \$307,500 in scholarships to 44 student members. WSOS awards scholarships to students pursuing high-demand trade, health care and STEM occupations.
- **Degree Completion Scholarships:** To improve an individual’s earning potential over time, BECU financially supports students across Washington who are most at risk of not completing their degree due to financial hardships. In 2021, BECU gave more than \$1,020,000 to over 18 organizations to support postsecondary degree completion, including Eastern Washington University, Tacoma Community College and Bellevue College.
- **University Scholarships:** Currently, BECU funds academic scholarships for students attending:
 - Washington State University (WSU): an annual \$5,000 BECU Health Sciences scholarship to a student at the Elson S. Floyd College of Medicine; two \$2,500 scholarships to students of the College of Nursing and the College of Pharmacy; a \$20,000 scholarship to the Community Engagement Faculty Fellows Program at WSU Health Sciences Spokane; and a minimum of 20 \$2,000 scholarships each to sophomores, juniors and seniors at risk of non-degree completion.
 - University of Washington (UW): support of the [UW’s Certificate Scholarship program](#), which helps local adults continue their education in select fields, and nine [Friends of the Educational Opportunity Program \(EOP\)](#) scholarships, recognizing the UW’s commitment to diversity and the development of skills that will result in academic and personal successes. BECU also allocated funds in 2022 and 2023 that will provide five scholarships to aspiring female entrepreneurs through UW’s [Women’s Entrepreneurial Leadership program](#).
 - Western Washington University (WWU): Through its Scholarship for Inclusiveness in Education, BECU provides five \$2,000 scholarships with priority going to Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) students and students that demonstrate a financial need. Scholarships may be used to pay for costs related to educational expenses, including books, tuition, materials and supplies.
- **Seattle Promise:** To help provide additional higher education opportunities for Seattle public school graduates, BECU has committed to helping fund the [Seattle Promise](#) program over seven years. The funds will provide financial support to students for the first two years of school (or up to 90 credits of tuition), as well as ongoing college and career guidance for students to attend one of the three Seattle Colleges: North, Central and South.

College Readiness Prep

- **High School to College Transition:** To help students in their final year of high school successfully transition to college BECU partners with College Success Foundation and College Possible Washington (formerly College Access Now) by providing admissions navigation, financial aid support and one-on-one coaching.

Career and Skill Development

- **BECU Internship Program:** The annual 12-week [internship program at BECU](#) hires students based on academic excellence, proven leadership skills, community involvement and participation in extracurricular activities. Since 2007, BECU’s internship program has employed more than 200 interns – 65% of whom have

been hired on as either full-time or contingent staff.

- **Financial Curriculum:** To promote financial literacy within the classroom, BECU:
 - Partnered with WSU’s [Carson College of Business](#) on the development of a three-phase finance curriculum. Upon completion, students will learn how to make the best decisions possible when it comes to funding their education, money management and establishing sound financial habits for the future.
 - Partnered with UW’s [Foster School of Business](#) to create a “Business Minor” and digital life badge for students looking to learn more about business. The Business Minor offers undergraduates the opportunity to build a diverse set of career and life skills while learning from Foster faculty members in courses including financial literacy, accounting, entrepreneurship, marketing and information systems.
- **WWU Financial Literacy Program:** Funds go toward supporting the ongoing development and operation of a financial literacy program created by WWU’s College of Business and Economics. Some activities related to the program include financial literacy curriculum development, implementation, workshops, lectures and online training materials.
- **WSU Community Engagement Faculty Fellows Program:** WSU’s [Community Engagement Faculty Fellows Program](#) encourages students at the Health Sciences Spokane campus to participate in ongoing training and engage in critically reflective practice throughout the program’s duration. Fellows partake in interactive workshops that go beyond the classroom walls.
- **WSU Cougar Money Matters:** In an effort to help students build smart money management skills, BECU extends support to WSU’s [Cougar Money Matters](#). The financial literacy and wellness program offers a comprehensive financial awareness education platform for students along with a matched savings and emergency grant aid program for those in need.
- **Student Athlete Education:** Through its partnership with UW, WSU and Oregon State University (OSU) Athletics, BECU offers financial education to student athletes by providing them with the tools, resources and skills needed to successfully manage their finances both during school and upon graduation.

Student Lending Offerings

- **BECU Student Loan Program:** In partnership with LendKey, BECU offers in-school [Private Student Loans](#) for incoming or current students needing to fill the gap between the cost of tuition and other financial aid they may receive. In addition, [Refinance Student Loans](#) are available for college graduates or guardians of a graduate looking to refinance or consolidate current, existing federal and private loans.

Entrepreneurial Spirit and Innovation

- **UW Business Plan Competition:** BECU is a proud sponsor of the [UW Business Plan Competition](#) (BPC), providing a real-world experience for student entrepreneurs as they develop an idea, put together a founding team, write a business plan and present it to investors. The BPC is open to undergraduates and graduate students at colleges and universities across the state of Washington.
- **UW CoMotion:** In partnership with [CoMotion](#), UW’s collaborative innovation hub, BECU is working to benefit the community at large by focusing on financial services innovation. BECU’s Fintech Incubator renders startups access to training, mentoring and services benefits in the field of financial technology.
- **BECU Black Entrepreneur Opportunity Fellows Program:** In partnership with Eastern Washington University, the Black Entrepreneur Opportunity Fellows Program provides \$60,000 over four years to help talented students from the Black community realize their entrepreneurial ambitions. The program aims to remove barriers, increase access to opportunities and inspiration, and increase mentoring support.