



Workforce Training and
Education Coordinating Board

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Career and technical education scholarship deadline approaches *WAVE award offers Washington students up to two years free tuition*

OLYMPIA, Wash. – High performing career and technical education (CTE) students from each of the state’s 49 legislative districts have a shot at winning a scholarship that could pay as much as two years college tuition.

The Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board (Workforce Board) coordinates the Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE) scholarship grants—which in 2009 cover up to \$6,720 in tuition per year. WAVE coordinators, vocational administrators and counselors from Washington’s high schools and community and technical colleges help select the applications that are forwarded to the agency.

Students must turn in applications to their school coordinator by Feb. 6. The coordinator must submit selected applications to the Workforce Board by Feb. 19.

The WAVE is a highly competitive award, seeing more than three times as many applications as available awards. Applications are reviewed by committees representing business, labor, education and government, along with interested citizens. To be eligible, students must have completed either a high school or college career and technical education course of study. As many as 147 students are eligible to win the award in any one year—with two winners coming from high schools and one from a community or technical college within each of the state’s legislative districts.

“To meet the challenges of our economy, more students need the real-world, hands-on learning that career and technical education offers,” said Eleni Papadakis, executive director of the Workforce Board. “Relevant, applied learning that includes rigorous academics, engages students, keeps them on track and moves them forward toward further education that leads to living-wage careers.”

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Today, WAVE recipients are working in hundreds of occupations. They are medical technicians, firefighters, auto mechanics, teachers, nurses, computer programmers and construction managers – to name just a few. Many award winners have gone on to start their own businesses while others have obtained four-year degrees or higher.

Established by the Legislature in 1984, the WAVE awards pay undergraduate tuition for two years (six quarters or four semesters) at an accredited public or private college or university or licensed private vocational school. Students are reimbursed up to the amount of the highest tuition charged by a public university in the state.

- For more information on the WAVE Scholarship program, go to <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/WAVEWebpagenew.asp>.
- Students can obtain the 2009 Scholarship Application Package on the Workforce Board's website at <http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/2009WAVEApplicationPackagerev1.doc>.

The Workforce Board also oversees the annual WAVE poster contest, giving student artists the chance to promote the award, and showcase their talents. The winning design will become the WAVE poster for 2010 and will be used as the cover for next year's application. The applications are circulated to schools, skill centers, and community and technical colleges across the state. Get more information on the poster contest at:

<http://www.wtb.wa.gov/Documents/2009PosterContestAnnouncement.pdf>

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