

BECU POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION 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 and 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 million in scholarships to over 1,100 students.
- **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 2019, BECU gave \$470,000 to 18 organizations to support postsecondary degree completion, including the Highline College Foundation, Seattle Central College Foundation and Community Colleges of Spokane Foundation.
- **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.

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), which provide admissions navigation, financial aid support and one-on-one coaching.

Career and Skill Development

- **BECU Internship Program:** An 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 180 interns – roughly 60 percent 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.
- **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 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.