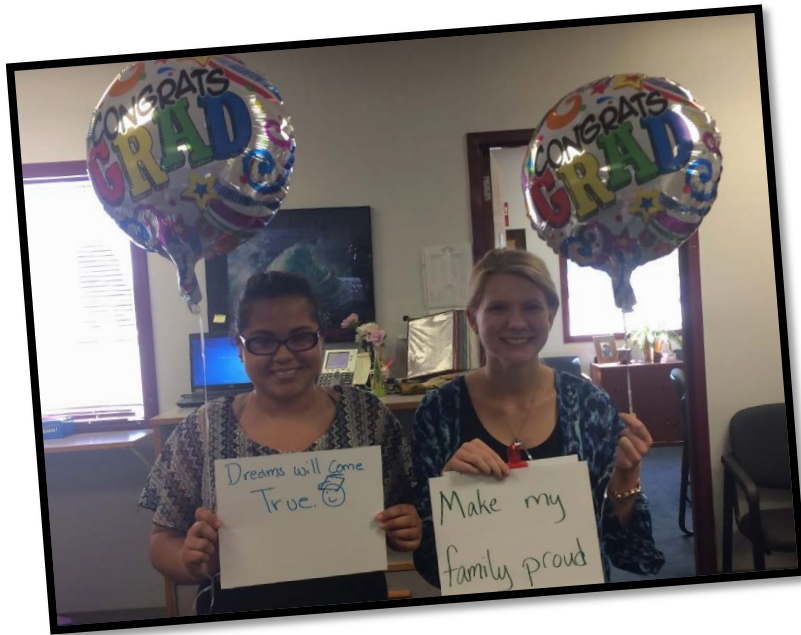


# Washington Apple Education Foundation Wish List



The WAEF Wish List is filled with names and stories of exceptional young people with the ability to attend college and the desire to make an impact. These exceptional students were identified by our scholarship selection committee following an exhaustive review of all applicants. Many of these students have overcome impressive obstacles to reach their current level of academic success. Their inspirations for attending college vary though they all seem to know that education is not only their own door to success but will also propel their families and communities forward.

The WAEF scholarship application is a rigorous form. It requires students to write an essay, provide answers to three short answer prompts, collect two letters of reference, submit high school, and if applicable, college transcripts, compile financial data and assemble a history of their work experience, volunteer roles, extracurricular activities, awards and leadership responsibilities. Over 1000 students began the application, just over 300 students submitted complete applications. Before our committee even begins its review, we know the students presented to them are driven and capable.

Unfortunately, there were just too many outstanding applicants for the number of scholarships we currently have available! Before telling some of our top contenders we are unable to assist them attend college this year, we wanted to give WAEF supporters an opportunity to pick a student and sponsor a scholarship.

What you'll see on this year's list that had not been as strong in years past, students with an interest in work in the tree fruit industry. In prior years, these students were chosen during the early rounds of selection. With such exceptional growth in students seeking tree fruit industry careers, existing scholarships couldn't fill the need. These bios have been highlighted

to direct your attention to the young men and women that are currently on path to join the innovative, driven world-class tree fruit industry.

Students selected will receive a scholarship titled in the sponsor name. Awards must be a minimum of \$1000 per scholarship. Please respond by May 5<sup>th</sup> for students to be included in announcements.

Following are profiles of our 2017 Wish List students. If you can help by sponsoring one of these students or would like additional information, please contact Jennifer Witherbee at the Washington Apple Education Foundation office at (509) 663-7713 or [jennifer.witherbee@waef.org](mailto:jennifer.witherbee@waef.org).

### Alejandro, Othello

Alejandro will graduate from Othello High School. After having a rough freshman year, Alejandro decided it was time to focus on his academics. He nearly earned a 3.5 GPA or higher taking advanced placement courses his remaining high school years. Alejandro takes pride in being ranked 48 in his graduating class of 150 but chastises himself for the impact his poor performance freshman year continues to have. He will be graduating with a 3.2 cumulative grade point average. Alejandro will attend Washington State University and major in chemical engineering in the fall. He was raised by his grandparents and instilled in him the importance of education. Alejandro's grandfather is an orchard foreman and his grandmother works general orchard labor.

### Ariadna, Royal City

Ariadna is an active student in her community. During her high school years, she completed over 200 hours of community service. With all her involvement, she has managed to be on her school's honor roll. Ariadna currently has a 3.67 cumulative grade point average. Giving back to her community is of high importance to her. She plans to attend Eastern Washington University and major in social work. She wants to provide students with learning opportunities she didn't have available. In preparation for college she attended Upward Bound Summer Academy for the last two summers taking rigorous coursework. Ariadna's father is an orchard worker and her mother works seasonal warehouse labor positions.

### Austin, Yakima

Austin is a future instrumentation tech for the tree fruit industry. He is currently enrolled at Perry Technical Institute in the school's **instrumentation program** where he has a 3.75 grade point average. While a high school student, Austin spent his summers working in warehouses with his father gaining experience about the tree fruit industry. He shared that one of the reasons he selected instrumentation was to be part of the industry that has given him the life he has and to get to be in the same industry as his father. His father currently works as a pre-size line manager. Austin has team experience having been on the soccer and football teams at Selah High School.

### Basillisa, Waterville

Basillisa is dedicated to achieving her goal of becoming an ultrasound technician. As a high school student, she experienced the loss of her father. Through her grief, Basillisa discovered new determination to make a difference to her family. In one of her letters of reference it was shared of her, "She could have found a reason to fall down... to give up. This is not her personality. Through family struggles and trying times she has risen to the occasion and is a

great success story. I routinely use her experience of courage to inspire others in classes I currently teach.” She will graduate from Waterville High School this spring with a 3.68 grade point average. She is an involved student playing high school sports and serving in class leadership positions. Each summer she focuses on working full-time to earn money for her family. Her mother is employed in seasonal orchard labor.

### Beatriz, Bridgeport

Beatriz is determined to become a computer system analyst by studying computer science and electrical engineering. Beatriz’s dedication goes beyond her grades as she is the first in her school’s history to earn certification in Microsoft Word, Excel, Access, and PowerPoint. She decided to take as many AP courses as possible throughout high school and has earned a GPA of 3.77. Both of her parents are employed in warehouse labor positions. Since her high school freshman year, she has been working with her mother in the summer months.

### Brenda, Wenatchee

Brenda successfully made the transition from high school student to current college student at the University of Washington with a 3.4 grade point average in her first college quarter. Her current education path is to obtain a bachelor’s degree in the major law, societies and justice and then follow through to law school. In one of her letters of reference her CAMP advisor shared that Brenda is a student that is always at class on time and puts a high level of thought and effort into her weekly writing assignments. Brenda comes from a family of seven and will be enrolled in college at the same time as her sister. Her father works in orchard labor and her mother as a year-round packer.

### Catalina, Quincy

Catalina began her college career with a first term 3.55 grade point average at Eastern Washington University. She credited her impressive start to an improved work ethic and a determination to stay on the honor roll. Catalina would like to work in the computer science field upon graduation. She sees that direction as not only aligning with her skills but also as one with potential for stable employment. Her dream is to be someone that younger people can look up to. She wants to be able to invest in others in her community through her deeds but also by providing financial assistance. Her father is employed as a tree fruit worker and her mother in child care.

### Chance, Odessa

Chance is a hard-working student in and out of the classroom. He will graduate from Odessa High School this spring with a 3.78 grade point average and a transcript filled with honors classes. Outside of the classroom he plays baseball and football, serving as team captain of his high school baseball team. He is the ASB president currently and has held other leadership positions. Chance earned second in the nation with his American Enterprise Project in Future Business Leaders of America competition last school year. He volunteers with his church. During the summer months he works in agriculture. Chance’s bucket list includes three top items: a good relationship with his family, teaching his own children the same things his mom and dad taught him, and having a successful career. Chance’s mother is employed in a professional position in the tree fruit industry. His father works in law enforcement.

### Daisy, Yakima

Daisy is an International Baccalaureate student at AC Davis High School. While taking these challenging courses she has maintained an impressive 3.5 grade point average. Daisy will

enroll at Washington State University in the fall to begin a biology degree with plans to work in the medical field. Daisy's mother works as a packer in the tree fruit industry. During the summer months Daisy joins her to earn money for her future and help support her family. Additionally, she has been involved in school as a cheerleader, member of the volleyball and track teams and served as a mentor in Link Crew and Safe Haven.

### Emmanuel, Peshastin

This spring Emmanuel graduates from Cascade High School. He has been accepted at Washington State University where he plans to study architecture and construction management. As a high school student, Emmanuel was an active member of his school community and a key player on his school's football, basketball and tennis teams. In one of the letters of reference provided by his English teacher, she shares that his drive and talent contributed to the team's winning years and his sense of humor was indispensable during the difficult seasons. She went on to say he is a diligent student, a confident class contributor and "he is a kid who always remembers to smile and say good morning to his teachers." Emmanuel works during the summer months. Emmanuel will graduate with a 3.2 grade point average. His father is an orchard manager and his mother a fruit packer.

### Evelyn, Waterville

Evelyn is on track to be valedictorian of her graduating senior class. She shared she set a goal for herself in the eighth grade to graduate from high school with a 3.5 grade point average or higher; she exceeds that with her current high school GPA of 3.9. Her plan is to attend a four-year university and acquire credentials to be a registered nurse. Though very serious about her education, she shared she likes to explore the creative side as well, "Photography is a hobby of mine in which I am able to show the creative and spontaneous side of myself." Evelyn is the student body president, a cheerleader, a member of the softball team and was the Waterville Shocker Masonic Junior Girl of the Year in 2016. Her father is the sole financial support for the five-person family. He is employed as an orchard worker.

### Fernanda, Kennewick

Fernanda will complete her junior year of college this spring. She graduated from Southridge High School in 2014 and then continued on completing her AA degree at Columbia Basin Community College. Now at Eastern Washington University, she is majoring in social work and has earned an impressive grade point average of 3.76. Fernanda is the oldest of three in her family. She shared she's driven to reach her academic goals not for herself, but for her parents and to set an example for her younger siblings. She selected social services so she could make an even broader impact. Fernanda's mother does seasonal warehouse labor and her father owns a pole building construction company.

### Fernando, Moses Lake

Fernando will begin his final two years of college this fall at Washington State University on his path to earn a degree in **agriculture and food business economics**. Fernando credits the work he did with his father in the orchards as the building block for preparation for this degree. He shared that working in the orchard was hard and sometimes intimidating. Through his experiences he got to develop interpersonal skills working with other employees and management and enjoyed learning about managing trees and fruit to maximize production. In one of the letters of reference provided for Fernando, the letter shares how Fernando always finds a way to overcome obstacles, further citing his traits of resiliency, grit

and humor. When he isn't working or attending classes, Fernando competes in Brazilian Jiu-jitsu. Fernando's parents are employed in ag labor positions.

### Herly, Kennewick

Herly is attending Columbia Basin Community College while employed as the assistant produce manager in a supermarket in Kennewick. His goal is to become a diesel mechanic. Herly has achieved a 2.66 grade point average and has completed 54 college credits. Herly's store manager shared that he is a dedicated young man who always tries to do his best. He further explained that Herly is punctual, responsible and enjoys learning new things. His department manager shared that Herly is one of his best workers and is looked up to by others in the store.

### Isaac, Pateros

Isaac would like to follow his family into the tree fruit industry. He comes from a long line of growers and sees his future in the family business. Currently Isaac is taking classes at Wenatchee Valley College while a high school senior to prepare for a career in **tree fruit management**. Isaac has worked in his family company assisting with harvest, tractor driving, thinning, weeding, sorting and other related jobs. Following the devastating fires that impacted Pateros in 2014, he spent a total of 900 hours assisting in the recovery center, repairing damaged fencing, and other community needs. He shared outside of school, the outdoors is his location of choice, spending time hiking, swimming, fishing, hunting and camping. His parents are not employed in the tree fruit industry.

### Jacqueline, Prescott

Jacqueline's career purpose is to work with young children neglected at home to better understand why people turn out to be criminals or drug addicts. She is currently a freshman at Washington State University Tri-Cities pursuing a degree in social science. In addition to achieving a 3.1 grade point average in her first college term, Jacqueline works 20 hours per week and helps to take care of her younger sibling for her family. In 2016 Jacqueline graduated from Prescott High School as her class valedictorian. It was shared in one of her letters that Jacqueline took charge of her own education in high school and continues to be an effective advocate for herself in college. Her father is employed as an orchard mechanic and her mother in a warehouse.

### Janet, Tieton

Words that describe Janet "intelligent, outgoing, thoughtful, humble and cooperative." She likes to draw, bake, dance, play volleyball and teach. Janet is also a fan of math sharing, "As a high school student, I had the opportunity to take pre-calculus and calculus while receiving college credit." These classes led her to double major in accounting and finance at Washington State University. Janet currently has a 3.51 grade point average and will enter her senior year in the fall. Her assistant professor shared of her, "Beyond Janet's intellectual capability, I was particularly impressed by her work ethic, maturity and desire to learn." She has secured an internship in an accounting firm for the summer that she hopes will lead to her first career job. Her parents are employed in warehouse labor positions.

### Jesse, Bridgeport

Jesse would like to attend the University of Washington in the fall though he has some back up plans if the funding doesn't quite work out right to enter the UW as a freshman. This fits with his approach to planning. When asked about the most important attribute of a successful leader; he responded "responsibility". Jesse is his school's ASB secretary and class president



currently. He is charged with planning fundraisers, assemblies and dances. He juggles this along with his six current college classes and participation in track, cross country and Multi-Cultural Club. Jesse works during the summer break in most recent years making and packing boxes at a local warehouse. Something more about his character, one of his letter writers shares that Jesse is always quick to greet people around him and his compassion shows no bounds. When he asks “How are you?”, he really means it. Jesse’s father is employed as an orchard supervisor and his mother in a grocery market kitchen.

### John, Wapato

John transferred to Washington State University to follow his passion in agriculture. He is completing his junior year and earned a 3.40 GPA his first semester on campus. He is majoring in **agricultural technology and management** so that he can become a field man/crop consultant for a chemical company in the future. At WSU, John became a member of the Agricultural Technology and Management club. In preparation of his career, John has also accepted an internship with Wilbur-Ellis this summer. John’s family owns a farm. He is joined in college by his younger brother.

### Librado, Mattawa

Librado is a junior at Washington State University with just one year remaining to achieve his bachelor’s degree with a major in human development and minor in sociology. He shared that he selected his education path because of the high value he places on family and the desire he has to help families lacking necessary resources. As a college student, Librado works 15 hours a week on campus to contribute to his education and living expenses. During the summer months, he joins his family working in the tree fruit industry. Librado’s volunteer work supports his career interests. He has been a volunteer with the WSU Children’s Center and supporting college access for others. He is a strong student with a 3.8 GPA at WSU.

### Melissa, Bridgeport

Melissa is a current student at Wenatchee Valley College with plans to enter the college’s **tree fruit program**. She shares that her career goal is to work in agriculture because she has always been surrounded by the fields around her and has held an interest in how fruit grows. Her parents were employed in agriculture until one day when they were able to purchase their own land and begin their own orchard. Currently the family is supported solely by her father. Melissa is working hard on her grades.

### Omar, Tonasket

Omar is currently a freshman at Central Washington University. His commitment to his education is shown through his strong academics, earning a 3.875 GPA at his college. He is a student in the Douglas Honors Programs and has a part-time job. It is with no doubt that Omar is a hard-working student. His major is business marketing. Omar’s father is an orchard worker and is the only one who provides financial support to their family of six.

### Oswaldo, Bridgeport

“Then I will be able to own an orchard, this has always been my dream since I was a little boy but I affirmed it when I started working in the orchard picking fruit. I saw that being a farmer was hard work but I also saw that high reward it yielded. Farmers are respectable men who show pride in their work and I wanted to be one, I still do,” shared Oswaldo in his essay about his wish list for his life. Oswaldo will graduate from Bridgeport High School this spring and would like to begin his college path at Washington State University in the school’s **fruit &**

**vegetable management program.** He earned a solid “B” average in high school and was involved in FFA, Chess Club and the Multicultural Club. During the summer months Oswaldo earns money as a swamper/irrigator for a local orchard. His father is employed as an orchard foreman and his mother in early education.

### Roberto, Harrah

Roberto is motivated to excel in the nursing program at Heritage University by his late grandfather that passed away from cancer prior to getting the help he needed. Roberto shared that he will honor his grandfather after receiving his nursing degree by performing outreach in the Hispanic community about the importance of preventative medical attention and ways of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Roberto’s commitment shows in his grades. He currently has a 3.66 grade point average in his first term at Heritage University taking biology, chemistry and algebra classes to prepare himself for the rigors of the nursing program. Roberto works at the college during the school year and in ag jobs seasonally to support himself and contribute to his family. He was a 2016 graduate of White Swan High School.

### Rubi, Wahluke

*Bright, caring, helpful, patient, kind, sweet, quiet, dedicated, passionate, strong and determined* - these were all words used to describe Rubi by her college instructor. Rubi graduated from Wahluke High School in 2016 and continued on to Big Bend Community College. In the fall, she will take the next step to Central Washington University in her quest to become a special education teacher. Rubi shared that she plans for her work in the tree fruit industry to pay for her education, though scholarships would be helpful in filling the gap. Her transition from high school to college was smooth securing a 3.5 grade point average. Her parents are employed in ag labor positions year-round.

### Shaelynn, Pasco

Shaelynn achieves high grades by establishing her goals and then putting in the time and effort to make it happen. She graduated from Chiawana High School with a 3.87 grade point average. Her goal for her first year of college? 4.0 and so far she’s on track with a 4.0 in the fall term of her freshman year at North Idaho College. Shaelynn selected North Idaho College for its nursing program and the opportunity to play college level basketball. About her major, Shaelynn shares “My career goal is to receive my bachelor’s of science degree in nursing and specialize in prenatal or neonatal nursing. Caring for newborn souls in the hospital setting and being of guidance to mothers during their pregnancy is something I am willing to pursue and put my whole heart into.” Shaelynn’s father is employed as a fieldman and her mother with a school district.

### Sofia, Zillah

Sofia completes her first two years of college at Yakima Valley Community College this spring and is off to the University of Washington to study political science and international relations. Her dream is to attend law school and then gain employment with the International Criminal Court and become a council member to the United Nations. She is a high achieving student graduating from high school with a 3.6 grade point average and improving that in college to 3.8. Sofia is known to friends and family for her soul food culinary creations. In addition to Sofia, two of her siblings are attending college currently. Her parents are employed in labor positions in the tree fruit industry.

### Stephanie, Chelan

Stephanie took her siblings advice to join Future Farmers of America (FFA). Becoming involved with FFA helped her think on her feet, become a leader, and have a bigger passion for the tree fruit industry. With her current 3.74 GPA, she aspires to attend Washington State University and major in **food science and agribusiness**. Her father manages an orchard and her mother works in a warehouse. She will keep the family tradition by giving back to the tree fruit industry and helping it grow.

*Please contact Jennifer Witherbee at the Washington Apple Education Foundation office at (509) 663-7713 or [jennifer.witherbee@waef.org](mailto:jennifer.witherbee@waef.org) for more information or to sponsor one of these students.*



*Thank you!*