

News release



Everett Public Schools

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Thank you, Rotary Club, Fred Meyer and Gates Foundation for *college essentials*

AVID High school graduates received \$500 gift cards to help prepare for college life



On June 11, *Next Generation Project* high school graduates converged upon the Mill Creek [Fred Meyer](#) with \$500 gift cards to use for *college essentials*.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), inspires and supports all students to make college a reality. Most AVID students are the first in their families to attend college. They may have little or no support to make that destiny change a reality.

Each student is headed off to college, thanks to the Everett Public School's AVID program, [Rotary of Everett's](#) commitment of \$200,000 and hundreds of volunteers to support the students' success and \$50,000 from the [Gates Foundation](#). Fred Meyer provided the shopping event gift cards at a discount and arranged the group's special shopping trip on an evening when bonus coupons can make the cards stretch even further.

Students who shopped and those who pushed carts while they carefully evaluated the aisles were so thankful to be there.

"I am so grateful and overwhelmed by this, I can't believe how lucky I am that I won this scholarship! Thank you so much!" said a happy student shopper.

"I have five other kids and I would never have been able to support her in this way. She has everything she needs now for her college apartment!" added a grateful Mom.

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"I've seen what these kids are capable of, and with the support of our partners like The Rotary Club and Fred Meyer, I am even more excited to encourage next year's AVID students to continue the successes. We have 100% of our seniors graduating and moving on to higher education, this program works!" beamed an AVID advisor.

Shopping trip organizer and Rotary member [Amy Norman, D.D.S.](#) explains why she asked Fred Meyer to help with this special program, *"While I could go to any community store, I am starting with Fred Meyer because you have already demonstrated such a commitment to local youth with your support of the Operation School Bell project in the fall ..."*



"We [Fred Meyer] believe in being a part of the local communities; we look forward to a successful event this year and hopefully again in the years to come," added a Fred Meyer employee.

So what does a freshman college student need as *college essentials*? The following is a list provided by AVID and others who have helped other college newbies get ready for their next steps toward the future.

College freshman practical needs:

- Luggage
- Small refrigerator
- Microwave
- Coffee pot
- Clothes and shoes
- Shampoo, soap, razors
- Hangers
- Bedding (XL twin is the most common dorm room size)
- Towels
- Electronics
- Zip drives
- Printer and ink
- Paper
- School supplies
- Graphing calculator
- Food
- Phone
- Laundry soap
- Laundry basket
- Popcorn popper

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