Who Am I?
The Seita Scholars Program (Est. 2008)
A Program History and Overview
Overview, Goals and Program Composition

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUwaqE9a77A
About the Seita Scholars Program

• The Seita Scholars Program is:
  – A full tuition scholarship for foster care students and alumni of care.
    • Note: The scholarship does not cover books, fees and housing expenses.
  – A comprehensive support program serving 160 youth (each of the past 3 years) who experienced foster care.
  – Designed to increase the success of students who experienced foster care and enrolled in higher education at Western Michigan University.
  – Provides opportunity for year-round housing
Program Goals

• **Create Transitions**
  – that lead to success in college and career for WMU students from foster care ages 18 to 25 years old.

• **Develop a Community of Scholars**
  – among WMU students who have aged out of foster care, and create a safe community to deconstruct and reconstruct identity.

• **Educate**
  – WMU students from foster care and their support network to enhance their professional skill set.

• **Transform**
  – WMU students from foster care by integrating experiences from students’ past to build opportunities for their future.
## Seita Scholars vs. FTIAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fall GP</th>
<th>Seita Scholars</th>
<th>FTIAC</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>1.44</td>
<td>2.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>2.29</td>
<td>2.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>2.37</td>
<td>2.86</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>2.30</td>
<td>2.89</td>
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<td>2012-13</td>
<td>2.39</td>
<td>2.92</td>
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<td>2013-14</td>
<td>2.51</td>
<td>2.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>2.49</td>
<td>2.98</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seita Scholar Cohort</th>
<th>ACT Variance</th>
<th>GPA Variance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>3.38</td>
<td>.25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>3.17</td>
<td>.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>3.09</td>
<td>.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>3.12</td>
<td>.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>3.13</td>
<td>.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>4.0</td>
<td>.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>.27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Support

• **Student Leadership and Employment Opportunities**
  – Leadership retreats, paid internship opportunities, scholarships, Peer Leader and Undergraduate Assistant to the Director positions

• **Identity Programming**
  – Women’s group (Lady Butterflies), Emerging Men Initiative (EMI), Seita Scholars Pride (supporting LGBTQA scholars), Parent’s group (Parents’ Future), Registered Student Organization (RSO)

• **Career Mentors**

• **Academic Support**
  – First year seminar course, specialized courses (HOL 4970, UNIV 1030, GPS), midterm grade reporting
Support

Campus Coaches (6)
- Every student has a coach
- 24 hour on call support
- Assist with connecting with resources and navigating campus
- Full-time professional staff
- Foster care experience
- Student-centered philosophy
- Focus on strengths of student
- Relationship Centered
- System Support & Advocacy
- Collaborative Approach
- Accessibility

DHS Liaison (1)
- Secondary worker
- YIT (Youth in Transition)
- ETV (Education Training Voucher)
- Medicaid
- Bridge Card
- Direct access to the Department of Health & Human Services
Seita Scholars Organization Chart

Chris Harris
Director

Ronicka Hamilton
Sr. Campus Coach
16

Jamie Bennett
Campus Coach
29

Tim Liggins
DHS Campus Coach
29

Maria Newhouse
Campus Coach/Projects
16

Keyla Whitaker*
Campus Coach
29

Peter Thompson*
Campus Coach
29

Grace Sims
Graduate Assistant
Start Date: August 3

TBD
Graduate Assistant

LaToya McCants
DHS Liaison

Roy Patterson
Seita Scholar
Ambassador

Amal Mohamed
Seita Scholar
Ambassador

Jeannie Hamilton
Admin. Assistant
Start Date: May 18

DHS Staff
WMU Staff
Graduate Asst.
Student Workers
Research Staff

*Terminal Staff
Eligibility, Application Process and Transition to WMU

PROGRAM ADMISSIONS
Eligibility Guidelines

• ETV or MET Eligible
• High school diploma or GED
• Students age 17-25
• Enrolled at WMU
Financial Aid

Typical Seita Scholar Award Package

$5,550 Pell Grant
$1,000 SEOG
$11,000 WMU Seita Scholarship
$4,000 Education Training Voucher
$2,000 WMU Work-Study
$23,550

(With careful financial management, it’s possible to graduate loan free!)

Note: This only covers 8 months of a student’s year, it does not cover winter and summer breaks.
OUTCOMES

Achievement Benchmarks, Graduation Rates and Outcomes
# Achievement Benchmarks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Foster Youth</th>
<th>General Populations</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduate High School</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>70%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attend College</td>
<td>7-13%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earn Degree in 6 Years</td>
<td>2-4%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

# Seita Scholars Graduation Rates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seita Scholar Cohort</th>
<th>Number in Cohort</th>
<th>Number of WMU Graduates</th>
<th>% Graduated from WMU</th>
<th>Number on Track to Graduate</th>
<th>% on Track to Graduate from WMU*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008-09</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>58%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>90%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- *Number includes WMU graduates (column D) as of the beginning of Spring 2015*
- **21 Seita Scholars are on track to graduate by the end of Summer II session**

Only 2%-4% of Foster Care Alumni graduate from a post-secondary institution nationally.**

Outcomes

• **Increased graduation rates among alumni of foster care**
  – By the end of summer, the Seita Scholars Program will have more than 70 graduates!

• **Seita Scholars have:**
  – Made the Dean’s List (26 in fall 2014)
  – Been selected as Presidential Scholars
  – Studied abroad in a variety of countries including Italy, Spain, Australia, and Argentina.
  – Served as assistants in the Residence Halls on campus.
  – Served on local and state foster care review boards
  – Participated in a variety of club and varsity sports.
  – Held leadership positions in student organizations across campus.
  – Spoken at conferences across the nation and advocated for youth in foster care!
  – Spoken with state and national legislators
CONTACT US

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Director
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Email: chris.harris@wmich.edu

For information about the volunteer program or donating to the Seita Scholars Program:

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Email: maria.r.newhouse@wmich.edu
Website: http://wmich.edu/fosteringsuccess/seita/volunteering