The Seita Scholars Program is continuing to grow and develop. In order to sustain this continued growth and development, the Program has had a multitude of recent staffing changes and additions that we are excited to share!

Position Transitions
Several staff members have had the opportunity to transition into new positions, either directly within the Seita Scholars Program, or in roles that will support the Program.

The first of these changes took place in January, when Jamie Crandell, a Seita Campus Coach, moved into a new role as the Training and Certification Coordinator for the Center for Fostering Success. While Jamie will continue to work with a small group of Scholars, her primary role will be to develop a campus coach training and certification program.

As she transitioned into her new position, Jamie’s students were transferred to Maria Newhouse. Effective in March, Maria officially moved from working as a Graduate Assistant with the Program to working as a full-time Campus Coach.

Additionally, Ronicka Hamilton accepted a position as Senior Campus Coach. This expanded role means she will help train and develop the Coaching team, while continuing to serve students as a Campus Coach.

Finally, effective on May 1 Holly Barra, a DHS Campus Coach, will transition to a new position at DHS as the Kalamazoo Michigan Youth Opportunity Initiative (MYOI) Coordinator. In this position, Holly will develop the MYOI program to include not only Seita Scholars, but area foster youth as well.

Joining us as a DHS Liaison will be LaToya McCants. LaToya will not act in the capacity of a Campus Coach, but will assist Scholars in navigating DHS resources.

New Campus Coaches
In addition to these recent changes, the Seita Scholars Program has hired two additional Campus Coaches.

In March, Ron Dillard joined the team. By April the third new Campus Coach, Lakeyla (Keyla) Whitaker, had arrived. Both Coaches are WMU alum and are excited to begin their journey with the Seita Scholars Program.

These new additions will help reduce the Scholar to Campus Coach ratio, ensuring that Scholars will continue to receive the high level of support, even as the Program continues to grow.

Administrative Support
To support the program administratively, Allen Ramsey and Kirk Reber have also recently joined the Seita Scholars team. Allen, a graduate student in the Higher Educational and Student Affairs Leadership program at WMU, will serve as a Graduate Assistant with the program.

Kirk will serve in the newly developed role of Manager for Program Development. In this role, he will work closely with the Volunteer and Career Mentor Program, so volunteers and mentors should be prepared to hear from him in the future!

We hope you will join us in welcoming all the new staff members!
As the 2012-13 school year draws to a close, the Seita Scholars Program has already begun to reach out to the next cohort of Scholars!

One of the steps in welcoming this new cohort of students to the WMU and Kalamazoo community is to begin collecting items for the Welcome Packs they will receive when they move to campus.

Welcome Packs contain many of the items that students will need to furnish their Residence Halls, all packed into a rectangular laundry basket. The supplies students receive include, but are not limited to:

- Laundry detergent
- Bedding (pillow, twin blanket, comforter, extra long twin sheets and an extra long mattress pad)
- Bath supplies (two bath towels, one hand towel and five washcloths)
- Self care products (toothbrush, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner, shaving gel and razors)

As in previous years, we will be reaching out to our community partners to help us fill these baskets and welcome the new cohort of students in September!

Official communication about the Welcome Packs, including a comprehensive list of supplies needed, will be sent out in early June, with drop off dates for supplies beginning in mid-July and continuing through early August.

However, if you plan to donate again this year, we encourage you to begin looking for those sales now, especially on the larger items. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to email info-fyit@wmich.edu for more information or visit http://wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php for last year’s Welcome Pack donation list.

Thank you in advance for your support!

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**Seeking Career Mentors!**

As we head into the summer, the Seita Scholars Career Mentor Program is again seeking Career Mentors to match with current and incoming Scholars!

The Career Mentor Program is vital in supporting students in achieving academic success during their time here at Western and in connecting students to working professionals in the community who can both increase their support network and assist Scholars in preparing to transition into the professional world after graduation.

Professionals from all fields are encouraged to apply to become a Career Mentor, and we are especially looking for individuals in the following fields:

- Occupational Therapy
- Social Work
- Legal Professionals
- Medical Professionals
- Business Professionals

Career Mentors are asked to commit to the following:

- Complete the application process, including a criminal background check;
- Attend a two-hour orientation session;
- Work with their mentee for at least one academic year; and
- Spend at least four hours per month interacting with their mentee, at least half of which should be face to face time.

If you or anyone you know is interested in becoming a Career Mentor, please visit http://wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php for more information or email info-fyit@wmich.edu.
Every semester, the WMU community recognizes the outstanding contributions of staff members in the semi-annual Make a Difference Award celebration. Up to fifteen awardees are nominated and honored by students and peers at an awards ceremony.

At this year’s award celebration Bryan Sutton, a long-time Seita Scholars volunteer, was honored on behalf of the Seita Scholars Program.

Bryan, along with other AFSCME employees, have long supported Seita Scholars by helping with semester moves, organizing a holiday meal for students and providing holiday gifts for the children of Seita Scholars.

Bryan was selected for nomination by a Seita Scholar, Nikki Jenks. Nikki commented about the nomination that, “I wanted to nominate the entire AFSCME group because of everything they do for the Seita Scholars, however due to the nature of the award I could only nominate one person.”

Nikki continues, stating that she nominated Bryan for the award because, “I felt that nominating and recognizing Bryan for what he does would be a great way for me as a Seita Scholar to give back to someone who has given so much of his time and efforts to not only me but so many of my peers.”

Nikki emphasized the lasting impact that Bryan’s actions have had on her stating that, “For a month after [the end of semester move] I was...trying to figure out a way to pay him [Bryan] back in a way that would not only compensate for his time but also honor him in the same way I’ve been honored by him and all of his efforts and time.”

Congratulations to Bryan for taking the time to make a difference in the lives of all the Seita Scholars and thank you to all of our volunteers who make a difference all year!

Movers Needed for Spring Move!

As the semester comes to a close, it is time for Seita Scholars to pack up their belongings and move out of their Residence Halls for the summer. While some students have off campus housing options for the summer, other students will be moving from their current residence halls into the summer on campus housing in The Burnhams.

During this time, we rely on program volunteers to assist students with moving their belongings. This year, the move will take place on the morning of Saturday, April 27. We need drivers with covered vehicles, and also people who can help move boxes and furniture as needed. Please, if you or anyone you know is interested in assisting with the move process, or need more information about the move, contact Kirk Reber at kirk.reber@wmich.edu.

Donor’s Corner

Throughout the year, as classes begin to pile on the work, students sometimes find that their backpacks cannot handle the load they have been given. Here in the Seita office, we like to keep a few new backpacks on hand to give out to students who need a replacement backpack.

It is ideal for the backpack to be gender neutral, and have more than one large pocket so students can comfortably carry books for more than one class at a time if they are not able to return home between classes.

Questions? Please email info-fyi@wmich.edu.
April 2013
Thursday, April 18: Seita Scholars End of Semester Picnic
April 22—26: Final Exam Week
Saturday, April 27:
♦ Spring Commencement Ceremony
♦ Seita Scholars Graduation Celebration (for graduates)
♦ *Move Day
Tuesday, April 30: Spring grades post

May 2013
Monday, May 6: Summer I session begins
Monday, May 27: Memorial Day Recess (no classes)

June 2013
Thursday, June 27: Summer I session ends
Friday, June 28: Summer II session begins
Saturday, June 29: Summer Commencement Ceremony

July 2013
Tuesday, July 2: Summer I grades post
Thursday, July 4: Independence Day Recess (no classes)
Sunday, July 14—Friday, July 19: Summer Early Transition Week
♦ Monday, July 15—Career Mentor and Scholar Dinner
Welcome Pack Drop-off Begins (Dates TBA)

August 2013
Welcome Pack Drop-off Continues (Dates TBA)
Friday, August 16: Summer II session ends
Saturday, August 17—Saturday, August 24: Leadership Retreat to Washington DC
Tuesday, August 20: Summer II grades post
*Monday, August 26: Move Day**
Tuesday, August 27—Friday, August 30: Fall Welcome

* Indicates a time when volunteer support is utilized for events.
** Indicates an event that would be a good event for mentors/mentees to attend together.