Welcome Packs: The New School Year is Coming!

As the 2013-14 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.

Volunteers are called upon in June, July and August to donate single items or entire packs, which will be handed out to students when they arrive for Welcome Week at the end of August.

Welcome Pack Items

Each year, the list of items needed changes slightly based on the changing needs of students. All items included in the Welcome Packs must be full-sized, new and unopened.

This year, each Welcome Pack will contain the following items:

- Bathing sponges/puffs
- Body Wash
- Box Fan
- Comb
- Deodorant
- Feminine hygiene products (unscented)
- Hypoallergenic pillow
- Nail clippers
- Laundry basket (must be rectangular)
- Laundry detergent and fabric softener
- Lotion
- Razors
- Shampoo and Conditioner
- Shaving crème/gel
- Shower caddy
- Shower shoes and shower cap
- Toothbrush (2-pack) and toothpaste
- Twin blanket
- Twin comforter
- Twin jersey sheet set (extra long)
- Twin mattress pad (extra long)
- Two bath towels, one hand towel, and five washcloths

Welcome Pack Drop-Off

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! This year, we are expecting between 30-40 new students, and will therefore aim to fill approximately 50 baskets.

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/fosteringsuccess/Giving/volunteering.php for up to date information.

Thank you in advance for making this possible!
On the last Sunday in March, nearly 30 Volunteer Career Mentor and Mentee pairs attended a private screening of the blockbuster hit *Olympus Has Fallen* at the new Alamo Drafthouse in downtown Kalamazoo.

The event was designed to bring mentors and mentees together to come together, interact with other mentors and mentees, and just have fun.

Participants at the event shared that it was “a great event” and “a fun chance to see other successful matches, and see that we are a part of an awesome program.” Participants also shared that it was fun to experience the “sense of family” in the program and “have a theater rented out just for our group.”

The Seita Scholars Program is dedicated to matching students with working professionals in the community to build students’ support network, enhance professional development skills, and provide students with exposure to working professionals who they can learn from.

As we prepare to start a new school year, with a new cohort of incoming scholars, we are seeking new mentors!

To be a mentor, we ask that potential applicants:

- Have a Bachelor’s degree;
- Be currently employed in their field;
- Commit to working with a student for at least one academic year;
- Participate in a training and agree to a background check;
- Complete an application, which is available online at: http://wmich.edu/fosteringsuccess/Giving/volunteering.php

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**Upcoming Staffing Changes**

Kirk Reber, manager for program development, has taken a missionary position and will be relocating to Georgia - the region of Eurasia, located at the crossroads of Western Asia and Eastern Europe. Kirk’s last day with the Seita Scholar Program will be May 30.

During his employment with us, Kirk has worked closely with our team to ensure coordination of the volunteer/mentor program, disbursement of scholarship dollars, worked with students who received paid internships with our office, and much more. We appreciate Kirk’s good work and wish him and his family well in Georgia!

After posting the manager for program development position and conducting interviews, which peer leaders were a part of, Maria Newhouse, a current campus coach, has accepted an offer to be the next manager for program development. Therefore, Maria will leave the position of campus coach.

As campus coach Maria has assisted the team with developing various forms and documents to enhance our coaching and student learning, supported the volunteer career mentor program, organized events, and more. We are pleased with her skill-set and look forward to working with her in this new role!

Maria and Kirk will be working closely during this transition, and you may begin to receive communication from one or both of them as they organize events with volunteers and mentors into the summer months. We appreciate your patience as we work through this transition and encourage you to direct any questions to either Kirk (kirk.reber@wmich.edu) or Maria (maria.r.newhouse@wmich.edu).
Free Webinar
(May 8, 2-3pm EST)
About: This presentation, titled “College Students from Foster Care: Is there a Gap between Academic Aspirations and College Readiness?” is part of the Center for Fostering Success webinar series called “Best Practice, Best Fit.” In the series, researchers present key findings relevant to practice solutions aimed at helping students from foster care thrive in college and career.
Organized by: Center for Fostering Success

Community Film Screening: Short Term 12
(May 15, 6:30pm)
About: Short Term 12 is an award-winning film that explores the challenges faced by youth in foster care. Fostering Success Michigan invites you to attend this complimentary film screening and enjoy the company of others who are working to raise awareness about foster care.
Location of Event: Fetzer Center, Kalamazoo MI
Organized by: Fostering Success Michigan

Lunchtime Lecture
(May 8, 12-1pm)
About: This lecture, titled “Coaching as an Effective Intervention with College Students Who Have Experienced Adverse Childhood Experiences,” will focus on the rationale for using a coaching strategy with students who are enrolled in college and have experienced adverse childhood experiences and/or foster care. Current coaches and students receiving coaching will present aspects of effective coaching as well as future directions in coaching.
Location of Event: Lee Honors College Atrium
Organized by: The Fostering Success Coach Training Team and The Seita Scholars Program

Center for Fostering Success Open House
(May 22, 3-5pm)
About: This event will introduce The Center for Fostering Success and its components, along with our new Seita Scholars support environment. The open house also serves as an opportunity for the students and staff of the Center for Fostering Success to extend appreciation and gratitude to campus and community supports.
Location: Faunce Student Services, Seita Scholars Office (Ground Floor)
Organized by: The Center for Fostering Success, The Seita Scholars Program, and Fostering Success Michigan

Screening and Panel Discussion: The Fosters
(May 28, 5:30-8pm)
About: Screening of an episode of the ABC Family series The Fosters followed by a panel discussion. The panel will focus on the experiences of LGBT foster parents, the Department of Human Services, and LGBT and ally students who have been in the foster care system.
Location: Fetzer Center (Kirsch Auditorium, main floor)
Organized by: The Seita Scholars Program, Seita Pride

Donor’s Corner
At this time, we are in need of the following items to distribute to current Seita Scholars:
- Deodorant for women
- Laundry detergent
Donations can be dropped off in the Seita Scholars office in the lower level of Faunce Student Services. Please contact our Administrative Assistant, Shannon Sziede, at (269) 387-8344 with any questions!
April 2014
April 21-25—Final Exam Week
April 26—Spring Commencement
    Seita Scholars Graduation Celebration**
    Move Day*
April 29—Spring grades post

May 2014: Foster Care Awareness Month
May 5—Summer I Classes begin
May 8—Free Webinar (see page 3 for more details)
    Lunchtime Lecture (details on page 3)
May 15—Short Term 12 Screening at Alamo Drafthouse
    (more details on page 3)
May 22—Center for Fostering Success Open House
    (more details available on page 3)
May 26—Memorial Day recess
May 28—Screening and Panel Discussion of The Fosters
    (more details available on page 3)

June 2014
June 25—Summer I session ends
June 26—Summer II session begins
June 28—Summer Commencement**

July 2014
Welcome Pack Drop-off Begins—Dates and Times TBD*
July 1—Summer I grades post
July 4—Independence Day Recess
July 13-18—Summer Early Transition (SET) Week and Career Mentor Dinner (TBD)**

August 2014
Welcome Pack Drop-off Continues—Dates and Times TBD*
August 15—Summer II session ends
August 19—Summer II grades post
August 25—Move Day*
August 26-29—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.