The Seita Scholars Program is proud to welcome its sixth cohort of Scholars to Western Michigan University’s Campus this month!

In order to assist these Scholars in expanding their support network here on campus, it is the goal of the Program to match all of our new students with a Volunteer Career Mentor—and we need your help!

In order to meet this goal, the Seita Scholars Volunteer Career Mentor Program is seeking approximately 40 new Volunteer Career Mentors.

In order to recruit this high volume of new mentors, we are asking our current volunteers and mentors to spread the word about this amazing program!

Volunteer Career Mentors have the opportunity to connect one-on-one with a current Seita Scholar and work with them to develop and hone their professional and academic skills. Mentors are encouraged to engage mentees in a variety of activities including, but not limited to:

- Job shadowing and network building
- Discussing academic and career paths
- Working with students to develop resumes
- Connecting students to professionals in fields of interest
- Coaching students toward academic success

Mentors are needed in every field, but we are specifically seeking mentors in the following professions:

- Occupational Therapy
- Social Work, Counseling and Human Services
- Medical Fields (nursing, physician assistants, doctors)
- Political Science
- Criminal Justice (lawyers, law enforcement, etc.)
- Education

Mentors are paired with no more than two Seita Scholars; matches are made based on mutual interest, both personal and professional.

**Program Requirements**

Career Mentors must be at least 25 years of age and have a baccalaureate degree. In addition, they must agree to the following:

- Complete an application and criminal background check
- Participate in an orientation session
- Commit to mentor his/her mentee for at least one academic year
- Spend four hours per month with his/her mentee, at least half of which should be face to face

**Apply Now**

Applications to be a Volunteer Career Mentor are available online at:

http://www.wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php

**Questions**

For questions about the Volunteer Career Mentor Program, please contact Kirk Reber via email at kirk.reber@wmich.edu or via phone at (269) 387-8381.
The Michigan Education Trust (MET) is preparing to host a fundraising dinner at the end of the month, proceeds of which will benefit students from foster care enrolled in Michigan public universities.

The MET scholarship has benefited students across the state of Michigan, including Seita Scholars. At this year’s dinner Paul and Amy Blavin, alumni of the University of Michigan, have are matching donations 1:1 up to $50,000.

The dinner will be held on Thursday, September 26 from 6-9PM. There are a multitude of ways to support this event, including:

- **Sponsor a Seita Scholar**
  Tickets to the dinner are $100 and the Seita Scholars Program hopes to send six Scholars.
  To purchase a ticket on behalf of a Scholar go online to [http://www.michigan.gov/setwithmet/0,4666,7-237-61346-285167--00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/setwithmet/0,4666,7-237-61346-285167--00.html) and enter your name as a sponsor and “Seita Scholar” as the name of the attendee.

- **Attend the Dinner**
  Follow the link above to purchase tickets for yourself and any other guest.

- **Donate to the Michigan Education Trust**
  To donate to MET go online to [https://www.thepayplace.com/mi/treas/metcharitable/billpreview.aspx](https://www.thepayplace.com/mi/treas/metcharitable/billpreview.aspx)

The great news about this event is that every dollar donated to the event will be matched—which means that your donation is automatically doubled!

On behalf of the Seita Scholars Program, we would like to thank you for considering this event and for your continued support.

Please contact Kirk Reber by September 15 at kirk.reber@wmich.edu if you have any questions about sponsoring this event.

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**Starting the Semester Strong: A Volunteer and Donor Thank You**

On Monday, August 26 over 40 new Seita Scholars moved onto the campus of Western Michigan University.

In addition to being greeted by their Campus Coaches and Seita support staff, students received moving assistance from WMU AFSCME volunteers, picked up snack packs put together by volunteers from St. Catherine of Sienna, selected a homemade quilt and received their Welcome Packs!

The annual distribution of Welcome Packs is about so much more than filling Residence Hall rooms; it is about helping Seita Scholars start the academic year on the right foot and demonstrating to them the strength of the support community they have from the moment they arrive on campus.

On behalf of all of the Seita Scholars, both new and returning, the Seita Scholars Program would like to extend a warm thank you to all of the volunteers who made this year’s move go smoothly.

We would not be able to do what we do without the support of the Kalamazoo and WMU community!

**Thank You!**
In an effort to facilitate the connection between Volunteer Career Mentors and their mentees, the Seita Scholars Program is committed to hosting events throughout the semester.

Events hosted by the Seita Scholars Program will serve to facilitate new mentor/mentee matches or to strengthen existing matches.

**Career Mentor and Mentee Match Dinner**

The first of these events, a meet and greet for unmatched mentors and mentees, will be held on Tuesday, October 1 from 5-7PM (location TBD).

For mentors who are not matched, or who have indicated that they are willing to take on another match, this event is a great place to meet students.

At these events, mentors and mentees have the opportunity to learn more about one another before forming an official mentoring match. An official email invitation to this event will go out soon so mentors should watch their email!

**Mentor and Mentee Bowling Event**

Last Spring, the Seita Scholars Program sponsored a Mentor and Mentee Bowling afternoon; this event was such a success that we have decided to do it again!

The 2nd Mentor and Mentee Bowling Event will be held on Sunday, November 17 from 2:30-5:30PM. More details about the location will be emailed to currently matched mentors and mentees.

This event is the perfect time to come together with your mentee, hang out and catch up!

In addition, the Seita Scholars Program is open to suggestions for mentor and mentee events. Please email any suggestions to info-fyit@wmich.edu.

We look forward to seeing many of you at these upcoming events!

**Service Requests**

Although the semester is just beginning, the Seita Scholars Program is already looking forward to December and the University’s 3 week Winter Closure. This year, as in years past, we are requesting volunteer assistance helping students move into winter housing, as well as providing meals for students.

**Winter Closure Moving Assistance**

Students who stay on campus during this time receive assistance moving out of their residence halls, and into the only hall that remains open during the closure. Official dates for move assistance will be emailed out at a later date, but should be

**Winter Closure Meals**

During Winter Closure, the University’s dining halls close, meaning that those student staying on campus are responsible to provide their own meals. The Seita Scholars Program, with support from our volunteers, provides our Scholars with one hot meal per day. Prepared meals should be freezable and able to feed 15-20 Scholars.

For more information on volunteering for these activities, please email fyit-info@wmich.edu.

If you are not a currently registered program volunteer, volunteer applications are available online at [www.wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php](http://www.wmich.edu/fyit/Giving/volunteering.php).

**Donor’s Corner**

The Seita Scholars Program is launching a new initiative to support graduating Scholars: Graduation Packs. As Seita Scholars head in to the working world, we want to launch them with a care package that will help them begin their lives as working professionals. These packs will include:

- Briefcase or professional bag
- Portfolio
- Portable filing system
- Resume paper
- USB Drive
- Diploma frame

The first of these Graduation Packs will be given to Scholars in December. Details about how to donate will be distributed at that time.
Important Dates

September 2013
September 12: 1st Seita Pride meeting
September 13: Bronco Bash**
September 18: Seita Town Hall meeting
September 19: 1st Engaging Men Meeting

October 2013
October 1: Career Mentor Match Night
October 9 President’s Welcome**
October 14: 1st Day to register for Spring 2014 classes

November 2013
November 1: Graduation Plans due to Campus Coach
November 4: Last day to withdraw from classes
November 17: Mentor/Mentee Bowling**
November 21: Engaging Men semi-formal event
November 27: Thanksgiving Recess begins

December 2013
December 1: Classes resume
*December 8: Finals Week Celebration
*December 13: Winter move
December 14: Commencement
December 17: Holiday Dinner
*December 14 – Jan 5: Winter Break

* 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.