



*April 2015, Volume 3 Issue 3*

**FOSTER CARE AWARENESS MONTH**

**WELCOME PACK INITIATIVE**

**CAREER MENTOR SERVICE UPDATES**

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## Important Dates

Check with your mentee about these dates - there may be great opportunities to connect!

### April 2015

**April 27-May 1:** Final Exam Week

### May 2015

**May 1:** Seita Scholars Graduation Celebration (12-2PM, Trimpe Multicultural Center)

**May 2:** Commencement

**May 5:** Final grades due

**May 11:** Summer I classes begin

## Foster Care Awareness Month

### Events Happening All Month!

Did you know that May is Foster Care Awareness Month? The WMU Center for Fostering Success has an amazing line-up of events designed to raise awareness about the lived experience of foster care. The [full list of events](#) is available online, including registration information for each activity.



Events range from a full day conference in Lansing, Michigan to online webinars to dine out conversations about the status of foster care in our state. We encourage you to join in any way that fits your schedule!

For questions, please contact [Jamie Bennett](#).

**May 12:** CFS Webinar: Writing My Success Story: Young Adults' Experiences of the Pursuit of Higher Education (2-3PM)

**May 13:** Film screening at the Alamo Draffhouse (6PM)

**May 19-May 21:** Pre-Summit Conference: Fostering Success Coach Training Level I

**May 25:** Memorial Day Holiday (WMU offices closed, no classes)

**May 22:** Fostering Success Michigan 4th Annual Statewide Summit (9AM-4PM, James B. Henry Center, Lansing)

**May 28:** Foster Care Awareness Month Dine Outs (locations vary, 4:30-8PM)

## June 2015

**June 27:** Commencement

## July 2015

**July 6:** Summer II classes begin

**July 7:** Final grades for summer I due

**July 12-17:** Summer Early Transition (SET) Week (Career Mentor dinner, date TBD)

## August 2015

**August 25:** Final grades for summer II due

**August 31:** Seita Scholars early move in (Welcome Week kick-off and welcome pack distribution)

## Staffing Changes

### Coaching and Administrative

## Welcome Pack Initiative

### Gearing Up For Fall!

Every August new Western Michigan University students flood the campus, moving into apartments and residence halls in preparation for the fall semester. During this move-in rush, the Seita Scholars Program strives

to provide each incoming Seita Scholar with a basket of items to help fill his or her residence hall room.



In order to provide baskets with these supplies to each and every Seita Scholar, we rely on the help of the volunteers and mentors who support our program. Now is the time to be looking for deals on [welcome pack items](#), in preparation for the drop-off dates that will be held in July and August.

More information will be posted on the Seita Scholars website and sent out next month. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact [Maria Newhouse](#).

## Career Mentor Updates

### Share Your Thoughts!

This semester the Seita Scholars Program sponsored two events for career mentors and mentees to come together and have fun. These events included a bowling afternoon at Holiday Lanes and a movie day at the Alamo Draffhouse. Both events received wonderful reviews from those who attended, but were less heavily attended than similar events in the past.



**We want to hear from you about opportunities to connect with your mentee in the fall - what do you want to do together?**

Take a moment and provide any feedback you might have via email to [Maria Newhouse](#). Include ideas for events, as well as days and times that tend to work well for you and your mentee. This could be a great topic of conversation for the two of you when you meet next!

## Changes

As the spring semester comes to a close, we want to take a moment and provide an update about some staffing change that are occurring within the Seita Scholars Program, as these changes may impact students within the program that you know or mentor.

Campus coaches Korrine Wojcik and Ron Dillard were hired as terminal campus coaches, which means those positions were dependent on outside donations. In looking at our budget projections 5 years out we are no longer able to financially support the terminal campus coach positions. As a result Korrine and Ron's last day with the Seita Scholars Program will be May 4, 2015.

To accommodate this, there are some additional changes to our staffing structure. The Manager for Program Development and the Training and Certification Coordinator positions will now serve as Campus Coaches. Therefore, Jamie Bennett and Maria Newhouse's positions will change and they will both return to coaching students. Maria will continue to oversee the volunteer and mentor program, and will remain the contact person for volunteers and mentors in addition to coaching students.

Additionally, Shannon, our Administrative Assistant accepted a position with the Department of Health and Human Services at the beginning of April. We have brought in a temporary replacement for her, until we can identify a full-time staff member.

## Seeking New Mentors!

As we gear up for the fall semester, we are always seeking new volunteer career mentors! If you, or someone you know, is interested in becoming a career mentor take a moment and [fill out an application!](#)

New and unmatched career mentors will have the opportunity to meet and greet with our incoming class of Seita Scholars the week of July 12. During our Summer Early Transition (SET) Week, the Seita Scholars Program sponsors a career mentor dinner. This is a great way to meet an incoming Seita Scholar and find a match for the coming school year. More information will be emailed out soon!

## Donor's Corner

### Item Donations for the Seita Scholars Program

As we gear up for the welcome pack initiative, we still have current students in need of supplies. Items that are most needed include:

- Toilet paper (4 pack rolls or larger)
- Deodorant
- Non-perishable, individually wrapped snacks for the student lounge

### Monetary Donations

The Seita Scholars Program is sustained through ongoing Western Michigan University support, grants, and individual donations. Please consider how you might help current and future Seita scholars through providing financial support on a one-time or repeating-gift basis.

You may make a tax-deductible donation [using your credit card](#) or make your check payable to WMU Foundation. In the memo line enter Seita Scholars Emergency Fund, and mail it to:

WMU Foundation  
Western Michigan University  
1903 W Michigan Ave  
Kalamazoo MI 49008-5403 USA

If you are interested in planned giving, please contact the Development and Alumni Relations office at (269) 387-8700.



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