



SEITA SCHOLARS EXTENDED SUPPORT PROGRAM

FALL 2016

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY Seita Scholars Program

WMU OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS WHO EXPERIENCED FOSTER CARE

Students aged 17-25 who experienced foster care, but are not eligible for the Seita Scholars Program, may benefit from other services and support including:

- **Food Assistance Program (FAP)**
College students who have federally funded work study, and/or are employed 20+ hours per week, and/or are the primary caretaker of a child under 6 years old may be eligible for food assistance through DHHS.
- **Education and Training Voucher (ETV)***
Students who were in foster care on or after their 14th birthday or were adopted on or after their 16th birthday, and are currently under the age of 23, may be eligible for scholarship funds.
- **Independent Living Funds***
Students who aged out of foster care, and are under the age of 21, may be eligible for independent living funds, or funding through the Young Adult Voluntary Foster Care (YAVFC) program.
- **Medicaid**
Many students who experienced foster care are eligible for Medicaid programs, and Sindecuse Health Center accepts the Meridian health plan.
- **Michigan Education Trust (MET) Fostering Futures**
Students who were in foster care on or after their 13th birthday may be eligible for scholarship support from the Michigan Education Trust.
- **Michigan Youth Opportunities Initiative (MYOI)***
The local chapter of MYOI meets at WMU, providing opportunities for eligible students to connect, learn financial literacy and leadership skills and earn money for participation.
- **Youth in Transition (YIT) Funds***
YIT funding can assist eligible students, up to age 21, with the purchase of a wide array of items including computers, apartment start up goods and vehicles (in select counties).



- **Fostering Success Michigan (FSM) Google Group**
This informative email group, managed by FSM, sends out regular updates and newsletters about resources available to students who experienced foster care.
- **Graduation Preparation Seminar (GPS)**
Free seminars, run by the Seita Scholars Program, which are designed to prepare students for graduation and career transition.
- **Seita Scholars Identity Groups**
The Seita Scholars Program hosts five student led groups that support students across an array of identities. Through social events, workshops, speaking engagements, and more, students have a range of opportunities to engage in and build community during their time at WMU.
- **Select Special Program Events (varies per semester)**
Meals during holidays and final exam weeks, the annual President's Welcome and other events are open to all students on campus who have experienced foster care.
- **Student Newsletter and Weekly Update**
Regular email updates about events and information specific to students who have experienced foster care.
- **Personal Care Supplies**
Extra supplies from Welcome Packs are provided to students in need on campus.

CONTACT US

For more information, or to find out if you are eligible for these programs, please contact LaToya McCants at (269) 387-8358 or email latoya.mccants@wmich.edu.

*Visit michigan.gov/fyit for more information.

SUPPORT PROVIDED TO SEITA SCHOLARS

As a member of the Seita Scholars Program, Seita Scholars receive the Seita Scholars Scholarship* and **additional** support including:

- **Academic incentives**
Students who perform at or above a 3.0 GPA may be eligible for academic incentive stipends.
- **Emergency fund support**
Financial support as needed during emergencies.
- **Employment opportunities**
The Seita Scholars Program exclusively employs Seita Scholars in student leadership roles. These students serve as the liaison between students and staff, assist in planning activities, and support the staff in projects as needed.
- **Housing support during breaks**
The Seita Scholars Program, in partnership with Residence Life, ensures that Seita Scholars have housing during University closure periods.
- **Internship Stipends**
Students who engage in unpaid internships related to their major may be eligible for stipends to assist them with daily living expenses.
- **One-on-one campus coach support**
All Seita Scholars are paired with a trained Fostering Success Campus Coach, who assist Seita Scholars as needed. Campus Coaches are available 24 hours/day.
- **Seita Scholars First Year Experience Course**
2 credit FYE course specifically for Seita Scholars.
- **Speaker's Bureau**
Seita Scholars have the opportunity to participate in the Speaker's Bureau, which includes the opportunity to educate and advocate for youth who experienced foster care throughout the nation.
- **Special Program Events**
Events open only to Seita Scholars include the annual AFSCME holiday dinner, Finals Week Celebration, and the annual holiday White Elephant Gift Exchange.
- **Study Abroad Stipends**
The Seita Scholars Program provides scholarships to support study abroad, as funds are available.

* ABOUT THE SEITA SCHOLARS SCHOL-

The Seita Scholars Program is a comprehensive annual support program serving up to 150 students, age 17-25, who experienced foster care. Students in the Seita Scholars Program receive the Seita Scholars Scholarship, which provides up to \$13,400 to support the year round cost of attendance, including:

- Up to \$5,000 for fall term
- Up to \$5,000 for spring term
- Up to \$1,700 for the summer I term
- Up to \$1,700 for the summer II term

These funds may be utilized by students to pay for tuition,

- **Summer Early Transition (SET) Week**
One week, on campus, transition program for incoming Seita Scholars to assist them in developing community and increasing familiarity with the WMU campus.
- **Town Hall Meetings**
Each semester, Seita Scholars are invited to provide program feedback and input at scheduled town hall meetings.
- **Welcome Week Activities**
The Seita Scholars Program sponsors several events for Seita Scholars during the WMU Welcome Week, to promote community building.



WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY

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