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	Contact: Ann Rossi; RossiA@michigan.gov	
	Originating Office: Health, Education and Youth Services	
	Subject/Title: Western Michigan University Seminar - August 8 & 9, 2012	
	Distribution: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DHS Child Welfare Staff <input type="checkbox"/> BCAL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private Agency Child Welfare Staff <input type="checkbox"/> CWTI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CSA Central Office Managers/Staff <input type="checkbox"/> SACWIS <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Tribes <input type="checkbox"/> Data Management <input type="checkbox"/> DHS County Directors <input type="checkbox"/> Other:	

Western Michigan University and the John Seita Scholarship program are hosting a 2-day seminar, Key Components to Build a Higher Education Foster Youth Program, on August 8th and 9th.

The John Seita Scholarship Program now serves 150 foster and former foster youth on campus. They offer a financial scholarship as well as services that support the students in all areas of life. This seminar will allow attendees to learn about the development of this program, as well as other college programs established throughout out the state. Attendees will also learn how DHS has supported these programs, and the importance of community networking and support.

Case workers and supervisors that work predominately with older youth in care, and those that have an interest in the post-secondary education of foster youth are encouraged to attend.

Please see attached invitation and agenda.

WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY



John Seita Scholars Program Foster Youth & Higher Education Initiative

1903 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49008-5302
PHONE: (269) 387-8362 FAX: (269) 387-8360
www.wmich.edu/fyit

Dear Colleague,

We are pleased to invite you to the Foster Youth and Higher Education Seminar held at Western Michigan University. This seminar is organized by the Seita Scholars Program and to be held on Wednesday, August 8th and Thursday, August 9th, 2012. We are excited to share with you our knowledge and experience of the program over the last four years.

The seminar will include an overview of the history of the Seita Scholars Program, breakout sessions detailing the work we do, how we serve, support, and select our students, what resources are available to them campus-wide and financially, and what programs are new to the scholarship experience. A tour of our offices will also be given.

You will have opportunities to speak directly with some of the scholars and the personnel of the Seita Scholars Program during the seminar. You will learn first-hand how these young people have overcome and navigated tough obstacles and thrived with the help from the Seita Scholars program.

Seminar Overview:

- Program History and Future
- Campus Coach Role and Responsibilities
- Our seven life domains, which guide the scholars to reach their full academic and career potential:
 - Education
 - Finances
 - Housing
 - Physical and Mental Health
 - Relationships
 - Cultural and Personal Identity
 - Life Skills
- Department of Human Services Coach Role and Responsibilities
- Mentoring, Internships, Volunteers and Community Relations
- Targeted Programs
 - LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender)
 - Student Parents
 - Engaging Men
 - Leadership Development
 - Internships
- How to Start a Program on Your Campus
- Performance Metrics

In addition, we will provide you time to network and express your experiences and ideas at an open forum. We would like to invite each institution to express how they promote the success of foster youth in postsecondary education. Each organization will be given an opportunity to share what is happening at their campus during a networking event scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, August 8th. If you have a breakout session you would like to host, please submit your presentation by July 10th for approval and to be built into the schedule. All proposals should be sent to fyit-info@wmich.edu.

When:

Wednesday, August 8th, 2012, 9:00AM to 9:00PM

Thursday, August 9th, 2012, 9:00AM to 4:00PM

Where:

Fetzer Center, Western Michigan University

2350 Business Court

Kalamazoo, MI 49008

[Campus Map](#)

Registration Fees:

\$120 for both days

\$80 for one day

[Click Here to Register](#)

Accommodations:

For your convenience and comfort we suggest the locations below for hotel reservations. Be sure to mention Western Michigan University Foster Youth and Higher Education Seminar when booking with them to get the discounted rate.

Radisson Plaza Hotel Kalamazoo Center

100 W. Michigan Ave

Kalamazoo, MI 49007

1-800-967-9033

www.radisson.com

RATE: \$140.00

Holiday Inn Kalamazoo West

2747 S 11th Street

Kalamazoo, MI 49009

1-888-465-4329

www.holidayinn.com

RATE: \$96.00

Attending this event will provide you with insight into the program and how it has helped in the development and success of the students who enter the program. You will see how the internal and external collaborative efforts equip youth in foster care to be successful and thrive in the program as well as in the community. Additionally, we hope to equip you with tools to enhance or start a program in your

community.

If you have any further questions about the event or how to register, please contact Chris Harris at 269-387-8346 or fyit-info@wmich.edu.

Thank you for your attention and response. We look forward to seeing you in Kalamazoo!

Sincerely,
Chris Harris
Director
Seita Scholars Program
269-387-8346
chris.harris@wmich.edu

