

# Resource Guide to Higher Education Campus Support for Alumni of Foster Care

Summer 2012

## Who should use this guide:

This guide can be used by anyone who is interested in learning more about programming and scholarship support resources on Michigan's higher education campuses. This includes, but is not limited to:

- ◆ Youth and alumni of foster care
- ◆ DHS case managers and education planners
- ◆ Local College Access Network coordinators
- ◆ Foster parents and caregivers
- ◆ High school counselors and college advisors

## How to use this guide:

This guide highlights the diversity of programs and support offered to youth and alumni of foster care in Michigan and we hope to continue to add to it as more programs develop around the state. Contact information is provided for each institution and you are encouraged to contact programs directly for more information.

This guide was created through the collaborative efforts of the Fostering Success Michigan Higher Education Consortium. This consortium is a network of higher education institutions with campus support programs dedicated to increased access and success in postsecondary education for youth and alumni of foster care.

If you have any questions for the consortium as a group or would like more information on how to join the Fostering Success Michigan Higher Education Consortium, please contact:

**Maddy Day, MSW**  
**Fostering Success**  
**Director of Outreach**  
**(269) 568-9142**  
**maddy.day@wmich.edu**



*Fostering Success for Michigan's Youth and Alumni of Foster Care*

## Campuses with Programming Support

### **Michigan State University FAME Program**



The MSU FAME Program supports MSU students who used to be in the foster care system with a mentoring program, care packages, interactive website, and leadership opportunities. We want to ensure that students are informed of all the resources afforded to them as they contemplate pursuing a college degree, during their collegiate experience on MSU's campus, and during their transition to becoming an MSU alumnus. Though FAME does not have specific scholarship support for alumni of foster care, MSU has many financial resources (including the Spartan Advantage Grant) that can help pay for all or most of the cost of attendance.

#### **Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:**

- Was placed in foster care or kinship care at any time in their lives and/or are currently homeless
- Freshman and sophomores (including transfer students) must live on campus (unless married, over the age of 20, or U.S. veteran, or living with parent or guardian within 50 miles of campus).
- There is no date or deadline for registration to the FAME Program. Students can join the program before they come to campus as an incoming freshman or anytime during their MSU stay.

**Program Contact:** Jim Hennessey, Director; Sarah Shortt Williams, Coordinator

**Phone:** Jim: (517) 353-0724; Sarah (517) 353-0764 **Email:** Jim: hennes43@msu.edu; Sarah: shorttsa@msu.edu

## Campuses with Programming and Scholarship Support

### **The Blavin Scholars Program**



UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

The Blavin Scholarship is a need based award that provides \$2000 to \$5,000 per student, per year. Staff works closely with Financial Aid Office and scholars to determine need, and revisits this regularly. Support

services include: Guidance through the admission and transition process, one-on-one support, access to support staff 24/7, 365 days a year, liaisons in important campus offices who are familiar with the program and the specific needs that may arise for our scholars, group gatherings aimed at improving scholars' life skills and social supports and emergency financial assistance. Each Blavin scholar is matched with a mentor selected from U of M's faculty and staff. Our mentors have similar interests to our scholars and are often academically relevant, though they are also provide emotional and social support.

#### **Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:**

- Preference goes to students who were in foster care after age 13
- Must be a Michigan resident
- Must be eligible for enrollment at University of Michigan
- Must maintain fulltime student status and satisfactory academic progress
- Must meet regularly with program staff

**Program Contact:** Rachel Naasko **Phone:** (734) 764-7420 **Email:** rtmaki@umich.edu

# Campuses with Programming and Scholarship Support

## ***Ferris Youth Initiative and Mentorshape Program***



**FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY**  
*Imagine More*

The Ferris Youth Initiative and Mentorshape program was developed to increase higher education opportunities for young people who are low-income orphans or youth who have aged out of the foster care system. A major

objective of our program is to provide support that promotes success and general well-being of our participants throughout their undergraduate experience at Ferris State University. FYI participants will receive a \$4,000 per year scholarship to be applied to any direct cost at Ferris State University (tuition/fees, room/board, and/or books/supplies).

### **Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:**

- Be accepted for admission to Ferris State University.
- Be 24 years old or younger by January 1 of the year they enroll for classes.
- Provide documentation to verify their orphaned status (orphans only).
- Qualify for the Educational Training Voucher (ETV) or Refugee Educational Voucher (REV) (foster youth only).
- Demonstrate unmet need, as determined by the FAFSA form
- Be enrolled full-time.
- Reside on the Big Rapids campus in one of our residential facilities.

**Program Contact:** Nicholas Campau    **Phone:** (231) 591-3619    **Email:** [NicholasCampau@ferris.edu](mailto:NicholasCampau@ferris.edu)

## ***Seita Scholars Program***



**WESTERN MICHIGAN  
UNIVERSITY**

The Seita Scholars Program aims to increase college graduation and career transition for alumni of foster care, while building a community of scholars on the campus of Western Michigan University. The Seita Scholars Program at WMU offers a full tuition scholarship, Campus Coach and DHS coach support, connections to academic, personal and career oriented resources and services, and opportunities to build life skills, leadership and a positive self-identity through the experience of obtaining a college degree.

### **Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:**

- Qualify for the Educational Training Voucher (ETV) (For more information see: <https://mietv.lssm.org/factsheet.aspx>) or Refugee Education Voucher (REV) in their states;
- Be admitted to Western Michigan University as a first-time freshman or transfer student
- Apply for the Seita Scholars Program.

**Program Contact:** Chris Harris    **Phone:** (269) 387-8362    **Email:** [fyit-info@wmich.edu](mailto:fyit-info@wmich.edu)

## Campuses with Scholarship Support

### ***Aquinas College Fostering Success Scholarship Initiative***



Aquinas awards up to 2 scholarships per year to incoming freshman students who meet the eligibility requirements. The scholarship covers tuition, room and board, book costs, and activity fees for the academic year, for up to five years as a full-time student. The scholarship will also help with the cost of attending one of the semester-long International Programs if the student chooses to participate in one. Students are monitored by a faculty adviser as well as the Academic Services office.

#### **Program eligibility/affiliation criteria:**

- Be accepted for admission to Aquinas College
- Students must be in Michigan foster care at the time they turn 18 or upon high school graduation
- Be incoming freshmen students
- They must have achieved a minimum 3.0 Grade Point Average on a 4.0 scale at time of admission
- Have an ACT Composite of 22 or above [or SAT (Critical Reading and Mathematics) score of 1020 or higher

**Program Contact:** Ashley Hauch

**Phone:** (616) 632-2862

**Email:** [hauchash@aquinas.edu](mailto:hauchash@aquinas.edu)

## Pre-College Programing

### ***MSU FAME Summer Camp***

The FAME Camp is a summer residential camp program (2 nights and 3 days in the summer semester), held on the campus of Michigan State University for 35 high school-aged youth in foster care from across the state. The camp aims to prepare and support foster care youth who are considering attending institutions of higher education by increasing knowledge and understanding about eligibility for financial support, student life and studying at MSU. In addition to serving youth who are currently in foster care, the camp also provides a service learning and leadership opportunity for MSU students in the FAME Program as they serve as camp counselors.

**Program Contact:** Jim Hennessey, Director; Sarah Shortt Williams, Coordinator

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## **About Fostering Success Michigan**

Fostering Success Michigan, through generous support from The Kresge Foundation, Western Michigan University and others, is building a statewide collective-impact strategy that strives to prepare young people in foster care between the ages of 12 to 25 across the state of Michigan.

Fostering Success Michigan seeks to develop cross-sector solutions to address barriers to successful academic integration that affect this unique at-risk population, and support them through graduation and beyond. The ultimate goal of this initiative is to increase college-going rates and successful career transitions among Michigan's youth and alumni of foster care by building a network to support college campuses and local community organizations to aid youth in foster care.