

The Center for Fostering Success at Western Michigan University

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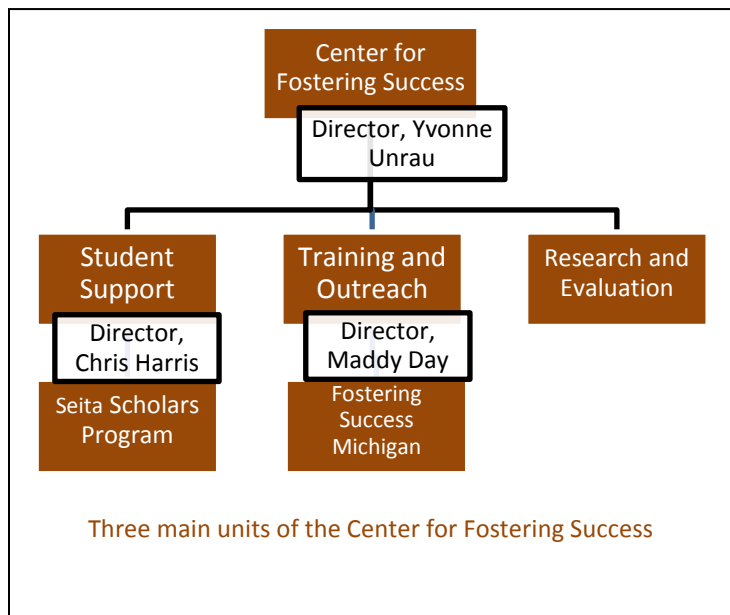
Vision

The aim of the Center for Fostering Success is for youth and alumni from foster care to access engage and succeed in college, and to successfully transition to career related employment.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Center for Fostering Success is to improve college graduation and career achievement rates among youth and young adults (12 to 25 years old) aging out of the foster care system.

Consistent with the mission of Western Michigan University, the work of the Center is guided by the learning needs of students from foster care. This student-centered focus is data driven, and applied research and evaluation activities are utilized to inform teaching and service efforts. The Center's aim is to build intellectual inquiry, investigation, and discovery into the transition of young people from foster care to higher-education programs. Further, the Center provides leadership in student services, training and research on topics and matters related to foster care.



The Center for Fostering Success reports to the Provost's office and collaborates with many on-campus departments, as well as community and government organizations at local, regional and national levels. The Center is seeking partnerships to develop the vision to its full potential.

Major Goals for the Center

The three components of the Center work collectively to accomplish the following:

- **Create** successful transitions from foster care-to-college and college-to-career for students ages 12 to 25 through the experience of higher education.
- **Educate** the community in the college-to-career pipeline about the needs, challenges, and discovery-driven solutions related to students from foster care.
- **Develop** leaders among foster care alumni to enhance the greater community and society.
- **Connect** strong and enduring networks addressing needs of youth and alumni of foster care in relation to higher education and career.
- **Sustain** the backbone structure of the Center to support the above goals.

Major Objectives of each Unit

- a. **Student Support (18-25 years old, WMU)**
 - i. Create **transitions** that lead to success in college and career for foster youth ages 18 to 25 years old
 - ii. Develop **community** of scholars among WMU students who have aged out of foster care (Create safe community to deconstruct and reconstruct identity)
 - iii. **Educate** Seita Scholars and their support network to enhance students skill set.
 - iv. **Transform** Seita Scholars by integrating experiences one's past to build opportunities for the future.
- b. **Training & Outreach (12-25 years old, statewide)**
 - i. **Add** the voice of youth and alumni of foster care for Progressive Policies (Connect, Develop, Educate)
 - ii. **Build** Statewide Network (Create, Educate, Develop, Connect)
 - iii. **Creating** Shared Measurement (Educate, Connect)
 - iv. **Develop** Education and Training tools (Educate, Develop)
- c. **Research & Evaluation**
 - i. Conduct research to **inform** best practice and policy to support youth from care through education to career.
 - ii. Conduct research to **improve** how communities can promote healthy transitions that support educational and career goals of young people growing up in foster care

Contact

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