

2013 Fostering Success Michigan Program Summary



Fostering Success Michigan, an initiative of the Center for Fostering Success at Western Michigan University, provides backbone support through resourcing, supporting and networking Michigan's partners who insulate the education to career pipeline for students from foster care ages 12 to 25 years old. In 2011, a \$700,000 investment from the Kresge Foundation launched this \$1 million initiative, building a statewide network to increase access and success in postsecondary education and professional careers for students from foster care. Guided by Collective Impact framework, Fostering Success Michigan is leveraging partnerships, identifying barriers to accessing postsecondary education and providing resources to increase the outcome of educational attainment and successful entrance into the professional workforce for students from foster care.

Over the last two years Fostering Success Michigan is hitting its stride as a statewide initiative. With over 3,200 partners identified, both in Michigan and across the country, serving the diverse Fostering Success Michigan Network has brought innovative partnerships and increased activity under the primary strategies of resourcing, supporting and networking. Here are the highlights from 2013...

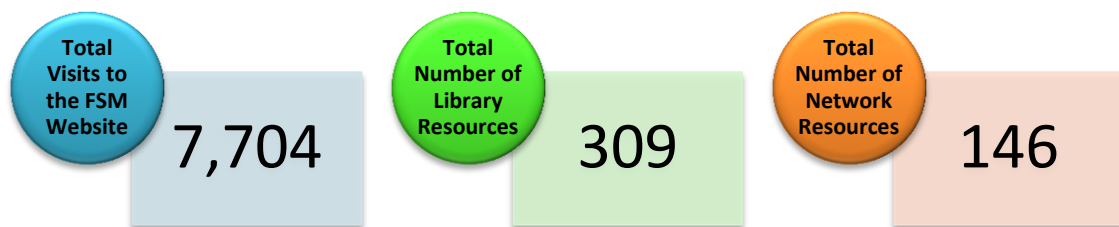
Resourcing Activities

- *Continuing the development of our series of FSM guides*
- *Debut of the Fostering Success Michigan Network Webinar Series*
- *Resource Email Campaigns*
- *Launch of FSM Resource Website: www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com*

FSM Guides include:

- Getting to Know...Students from Foster Care
- Getting to Know...Higher Education Resources for Students from Foster Care
- Getting to Know...Financial Aid in Higher Education for Students from Foster Care
- Getting to Know...TRiO Programs in Michigan
- Getting to Know...Affordable Care Act for Students from Foster Care
- Transition Checklist

2013 Fostering Success Michigan Resource Website Statistics



Supporting Activities

Fostering Success Michigan Higher Education Consortium

The HEC began as a network of partners representing the five established higher education campus-based support programs for students from foster care in Michigan. By May of 2013 the FSM HEC represented 10 postsecondary institutions with campus-based support programs. FSM provides individual technical assistance to the campus support programs, visiting each campus at least once throughout the year and providing phone and email consultation.

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Tracking Success:

- Number of college graduates from foster care in 2013: **22**
- Number of students from foster care ages 18-25 supported by campus-support programs in the 2012-2013 school year: **213**
- Number of students from foster care ages 18-25 estimated to be supported by campus-support programs in the 2013-2014 school year: **229**

*Data provided by: Aquinas College, Baker College-Flint, Eastern Michigan University, Ferris State University, Saginaw Valley State University, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, University of Michigan-Flint, Western Michigan University

Center for Fostering Success Leadership Retreat

In partnership with the Seita Scholars Program, FSM supported two staff and four students representing Saginaw Valley State University, Eastern Michigan University and Michigan State University to attend a 7-day trip to Washington DC, Baltimore and Philadelphia. Partnering with Casey Family Programs, students spoke with policy makers about changes they would like to see to the foster care system that would help increase positive outcomes for students from foster care.

FSM Student Ambassador Pilot

In partnership with Eastern Michigan University, the FSM Student Ambassador works as a contract employee for FSM and provides outreach to Washtenaw, Wayne, Oakland and other Southeast Michigan counties. The FSM Student Ambassador writes a monthly blog for the FSM website and participates in speaking engagements with FSM staff.

Networking Activities

Fostering Success Michigan Summit

The 2nd annual FSM summit was a resounding success, with 140 participants, doubling the number of attendees from last year, including over 30 students from foster care, Higher Education partners representing 13

universities, and over 40 DHS partners representing all 5 regions. Our activities included a student-facilitated simulation focused on the path to accessing college for students from foster care, as well as the debut of our website, FosteringSuccessMichigan.com

Regional Network Meetings

With the increase of postsecondary education resources in the Northeast region of the State, we created a fifth region (Northeast Region) and added a 6th FSM Regional Network Meeting. With over 120 partners in attendance these meetings highlighted unique strengths in each community and gave space for discussion and resource sharing to address the challenges partners identified as they work to build networks of support for students from foster care.

National Activity

Leader in National Gatherings of Partners in "The Movement"

- Partnered with Casey Family Programs to convene 20+ partners at the Annual NASPA Conference to network and discuss the development of a NASPA Knowledge Community focused on the education of students from foster care .
- Joined the Stuart Foundation, Casey Family Programs and the John Burton Foundation as a Planning Committee Member for the National Pre-Conference Convening of the California Blueprint Conference. This Pre-Conference brought together over 100 participants from 17 states and featured a presentation by Fostering Success Michigan on how we are utilizing Collective Impact framework to create large-scale social change in Michigan.

For more information, please contact Maddy Day, Director of Outreach and Training, at maddy.day@wmich.edu or visit our website: www.FosteringSuccessMichigan.com