



FOSTER YOUTH & HIGHER EDUCATION INITIATIVE

www.wmich.edu/fyit

Western Michigan University

Dr. John Seita Biography

January 14, 2008

The WMU scholarship, available through the Foster Youth and Higher Education Initiative, is named after Dr. John Seita who is an alumnus of Western Michigan University. He holds the following degrees from WMU: Bachelor's Degree in Sociology (1983); Master's Degree in Educational Leadership (1987); and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership (1993). He is the author of numerous journal articles and three books: (1) *In Whose Best Interest?* (2) *God is in the Kitchen and Other Everyday Miracles*, and (3) *Kids Who Outwit Adults*.



Dr. John Seita understands the challenges facing foster youth who are aging out of the foster care system. At the age of 8 years, he was removed from his mother's home and spent the remainder of his childhood and adolescence in multiple foster homes, detention facilities, group care settings and on the streets. He lived in 15 out-of-home placements during his journey through care.

Dr. Seita has dedicated his life to teaching and training future social workers about the challenges and strengths of young people who are aging out of the foster care system. Drawing upon his own experience and leading edge research on evidence-based best practice, he has given workshops and keynote presentations across North America, Europe and Australia that have provided insight into evidenced-based practice and skill-building models for parents, teachers, social workers and others who are providing care to children and youth in the foster care system.

Dr. Seita was selected for the distinguished 2007 National Ruth Massing Foster Care Alumni Award through Casey Family Programs. Only one foster care alumni is selected per year from a competitive pool across the United States. This honor awards exemplary foster care alumni who have made great strides in improving the policy and practice in child welfare on behalf of those currently being served in America's foster care system.

Dr. Seita is now an associate professor at Michigan State University. Prior to his work at Michigan State, Dr. Seita spent five years as a program director for the W.K. Kellogg Foundation in Battle Creek, Michigan. He has also worked as a Research Associate and Adjunct Professor at Western Michigan University. Dr. Seita also has extensive work experience in direct care positions with young people in various treatment settings.

Dr. Seita and his wife, Lori, have one child, Nori; and they are foster parents. Dr. Seita's website is: www.JohnSeita.com