

Ohio Reach

Understanding L.E.A.R.N

(Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy, Research, and Networking)

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Ohio Reach

The Mission of Ohio Reach

Ohio Reach improves post-secondary outcomes for foster care youth and alumni through

Leadership, Empowerment, Advocacy, Research and Networking (LEARN).

History of Ohio Reach

- **2007-08:**
 - Foster care youth, alumni and advocates reported barriers and obstacles to the Ohio Association of Child Caring Agencies (OACCA) for foster care youth in attaining higher education.
- **2009:**
 - The Higher Education Workgroup held a series of meetings, hosted by the Public Children Services Association of Ohio (PCSAO) to hone legislative recommendations and develop action steps.

History of Ohio Reach

- **May 2009:**
 - Ohio REACH Kick Off event attracts 200+ attendees.
- **2009-2013:**
 - Ohio Reach host its Annual Summits
- **2013:**
 - Ohio Reach was awarded a 5-year grant from Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine
- **2013:**
 - Ohio Reach hires full time Program Coordinator

Regional Trainings

- Purpose:
 - Campus Liaison Trainings are provided in order to bring together higher education professionals and introduce concepts and best practices for managing the pre-college, transitional, onboarding and retention/persistence challenges with Foster Scholars at their perspective colleges.

Ohio Reach Summit

- **Ohio Reach Summit-**

- Began as a taskforce just four years ago.
- Now, this one-day summit/conference is designed to bring together professionals from child welfare and higher education from across the State to further support foster youth in their transition from high school to college or the workforce.
- Last year we had 600 participants that were a representation of current and former foster youth, case workers, college professionals, and supporters. More information about the conference will be sent out shortly with more details.

Ohio Reach's Safety Net Policy

- **Safety Net Policy-**

- This policy was established to financially assist foster scholars who are enrolled in higher education.
- Scholars may receive funds for one emergency per school year. The maximum amount assistance is \$500.00.
- All request must be made to Ohio Reach in writing with assistance from Ohio Reach Campus Liaisons.

Mentoring Grant

- The Mentoring Grant supports the vision for retention, graduation, and service where students can focus their attention on mastering academic content and providing mentors to former foster youth with the greatest need.
 - Four colleges will be selected throughout the state of Ohio.
 - 20,000 dollars per academic school year(3 year grant)
 - Deadline to apply May 1st

Questions?

