Timeline from the foster care youth and alumni perspective

2007 - 2019

2007
Seeds were planted

- Ohio foster care youth and alumni reported barriers and obstacles for foster care youth related to higher education.

- The Ohio Children's Alliance responded by hosting a series of focus groups throughout the state.

- Which led to the development of Higher Education Policy Brief, and a workgroup to move forward.

2008
Ohio Reach was born

- Foster care youth and alumni participated as equal partners in the Higher Education Policy Workgroup. Meetings were hosted at PCSAO, and participants worked together to develop recommendations and action steps.

- The founding purpose of Ohio Reach was to address recruitment and retention of emancipated foster youth in Ohio's higher education system and to establish foster care liaisons at Ohio universities and community colleges.

2009 begins...
Statewide Kick-Off

- The very first Ohio Reach Summit attracted 200+ attendees, made up equally of higher education and child welfare professionals.

- This event was endorsed by the Ohio Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut who was also an Opening Speaker.

- The Summit was hosted by CSCC and included a foster care youth and alumni panel. Every workshop was co-presented by foster care youth/alumni.
2009, continues...

Statewide Launch

- Ohio Reach awarded allied group status by the National Academic Advising Association
- Radio interviews on WCUE, WOTL and WYTN.
- Higher Education Mentoring Initiative is launched, to help foster youth graduate from high school and transition to higher learning by supporting them with a mentor and financial assistance.

2010

The Work Continues

- Second annual Ohio Reach Summit was held at Otterbein University included a video of foster care youth/alumni throughout the state sharing their post-secondary goals.
- Chris Klefekr was recognized by Ball State University for her tireless efforts to improve access to and success in higher education for foster care youth/alumni.

2011

Expanding Our Reach

- Third annual Ohio Reach Summit included a foster care youth and alumni panel, as per requests from evaluations of the 2010 Summit.
- Wright State University Independent Scholars Network was established. The university agreed to provide campus housing during breaks.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event/Comment</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td><strong>Building Liaison Network</strong></td>
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<td>- Fourth annual Ohio Reach Summit includes keynote speaker John Seita, a foster care alumni who designed the Seita Scholars Program. Create transitions that lead to success in college and career for Western Michigan University students from foster care ages 18 to 25 years old.</td>
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<td>- Continued work behind the scenes to establish, train and maintain campus liaisons…</td>
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<td>2013</td>
<td><strong>National Best Practices</strong></td>
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<td>- Fifth annual Ohio Reach Summit includes keynote speaker, Dr. Glenn DuBois, Chancellor of Virginia’s Community Colleges, who spent his summer vacation bicycling over 700 miles, in order to promote Great Expectations for foster youth pursuing higher ed.</td>
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<td>- Ohio Reach Planning Retreat (five of the 25 participants were foster care alumni)</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td><strong>Regional Focus</strong></td>
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<td>- Passport to Success Conference at the University of Cincinnati for foster care youth, caseworkers and higher education professionals.</td>
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<td>- Ohio Reach Summit was combined with statewide youth conference. During the first year, the adult track included options for higher education professionals.</td>
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<td>- Ohio University and ACTION Ohio host college visit for SE Ohio foster youth.</td>
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</table>
Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine awards grants to college and universities supporting foster youth. Recipients included CSCC and Ohio University.

- CSCC hosts college visit for foster youth
- ACTION Ohio facilitates OSU College for the Day in April.

2016

Alumni Led Initiatives

- Second and third OSU College for the Day, facilitated by ACTION Ohio, in April and October.
- Ohio University and ACTION Ohio host Reaching for Success Conference for SE Ohio foster youth, with support from Athens County CASA and Athens and Fairfield JFS.

2017

Alumni Advocacy

- Fourth OSU College for the Day, facilitated by ACTION Ohio in May.
- Columbus State Scholar Network facilitates college visit for Franklin County foster youth.
- Columbus State Scholar Network representatives travel to DC to advocate for better higher educational outcomes for foster youth nationwide.
2018
What’s Next for Ohio Reach?

- Scholar House 3 planning behind the scenes continues, thanks to help and support from CMHA and CSCC.

Foster care youth and alumni remain involved in every detail, including array of services and building design.

- CSCC Scholar Network’s second trip to DC

2019
State Support

- Chancellor Gardner and Ohio Governor DeWine announce Short-Term Certificate Foster Youth Grant, designed to help students from the foster care system pursue their dreams of higher education has been awarded to 16 community colleges and three universities in Ohio.

- Two federal bills proposed by Ohio Senators

- Scholar House 3 groundbreaking coming soon...

2020
Ohio Reach Transition

- Scholar House 3 residents move in date is estimated to take place on September 2020.

Residents will be young people, ages 18-24, with a foster care history. Consistent with the Scholar House model, residents of the project are expected to maintain full-time status at an accredited two or four-year College or University.