

Fostering Success at UWM

September 17, 2019

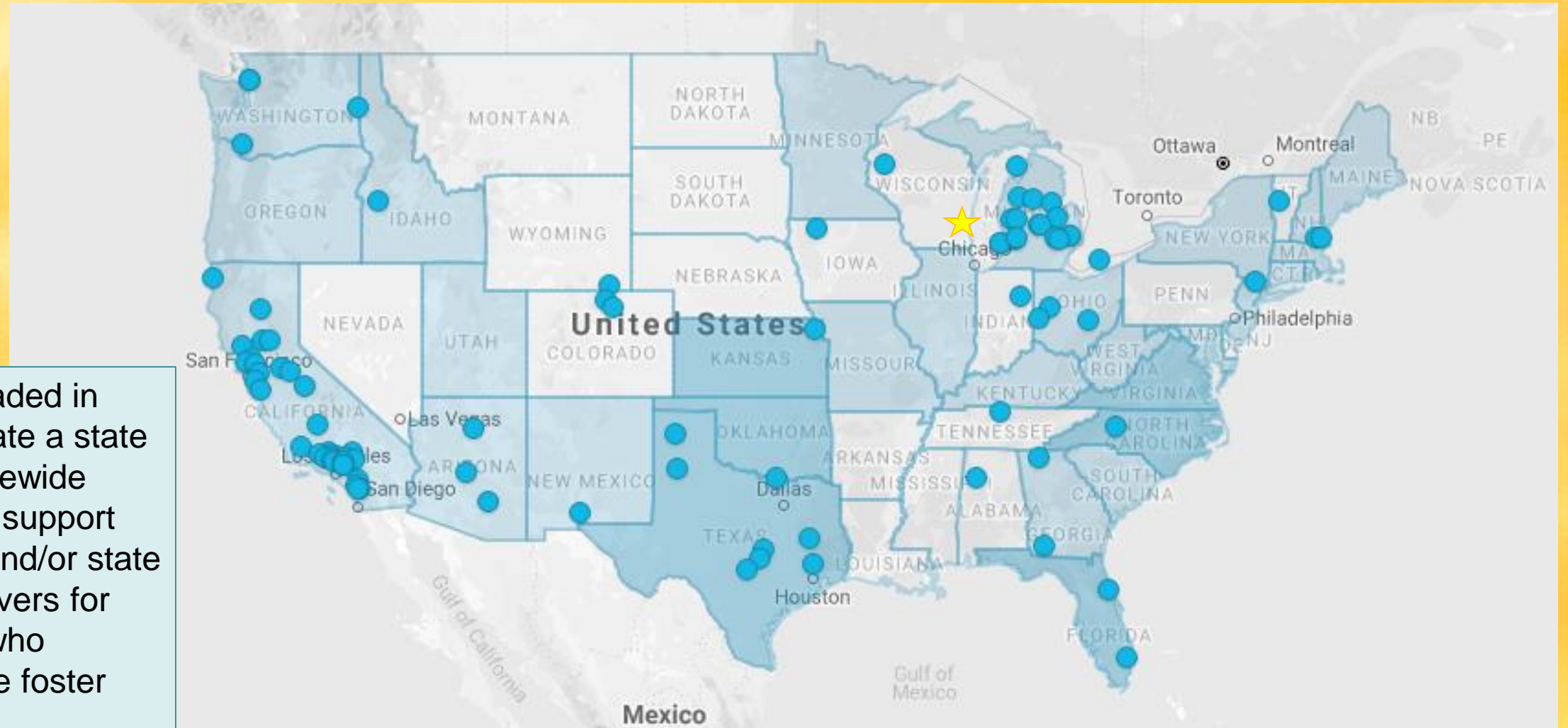
Fostering Success Coordinator

Tawney Latona

History of Foster Youth Support Programs

- The first comprehensive campus support program for foster youth started 20 years ago in California State University at Fullerton.
- Western Michigan's program, which is 10 years old, was inspired by a statewide summit on foster youth attended by the college's directors of admissions and financial aid and a professor of social work.
- In 2014, UW-Stout began their Fostering Success program

2018 Nationwide



States shaded in blue indicate a state with a statewide education support program and/or state tuition waivers for students who experience foster care.

How it began at UWM

Fall 2017

- UW System Single Point of Contact for Foster Youth
- WASFAA/WACRAO Joint Conference
- Support from UW-Stout

Spring 2018

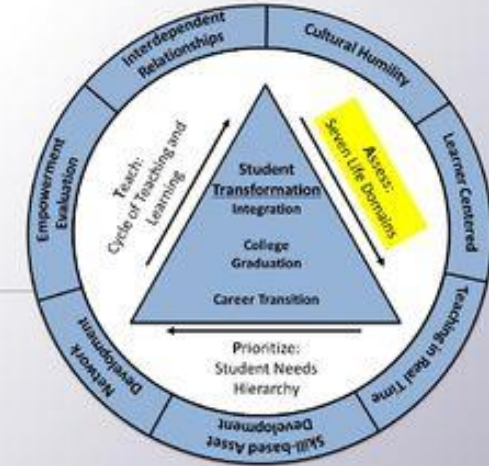
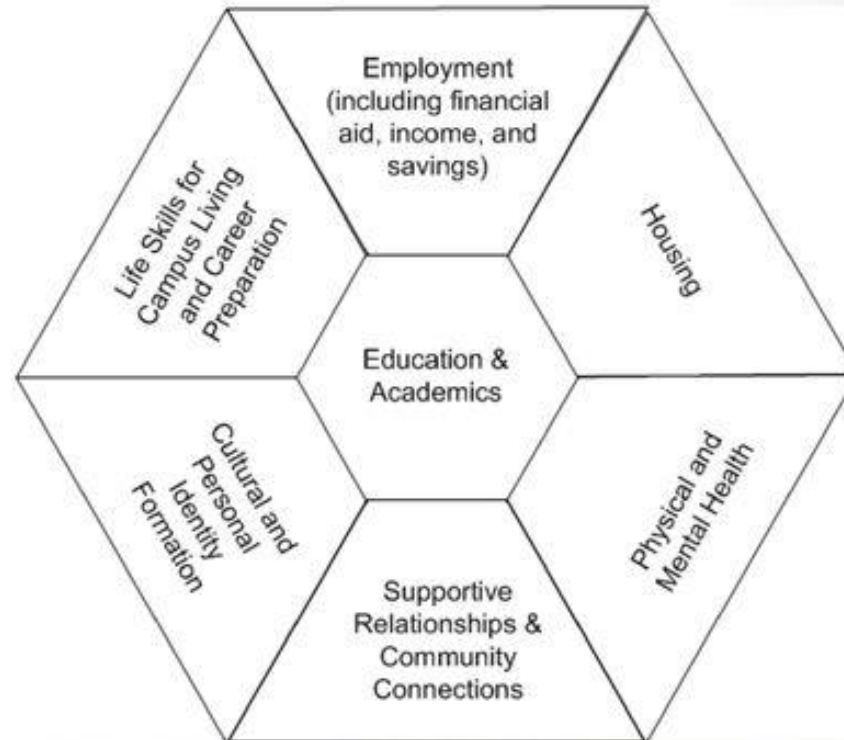
- Fostering Success at UWM Committee
- Food Pantry & Mobile Market

Accomplishments

2018-2019 School Year

- Website: uwm.edu/fosteringingsuccess
- Academic welcome bags
- Fostering Success Coach Training
- Campus-wide training on foster care in Wisconsin
- Advocacy & policy change
- Department of Children and Families partnership for documentation
- Campus recognition & community support

Assess: Seven Life Domains



Goals

- Communication plan and marketing
- Life skills baskets
- Linen Closet
- Mid-term care packages – Spirit Days
- Volunteer and donations needed website
- Community partner programs
 - Foster Me Walk
 - Fostering Memories: Give the Gift of Prom
 - SaintA: Foster Care, Education and Mental Health

Future Ideas

- Milwaukee Housing Authority
- FS Dinners
- Applying for grants
- Foodshare Wisconsin training
- New partnerships
 - MATC
 - Madison College
 - Other Colleges: WACRAO Conference
- Summer overnight program

Challenges

- Funding for scholarships
 - Department of Children and Families Scholarship Program \$5,000
 - UWM Morgridge Scholarship \$19,424 each (1-2 per year)
 - UWM Meadows Fund Scholarship \$15,000 per/year (can be split)
- Limited staff and funding

Only 1 in 5 children in
#fostercare will attend college

**Only 1 in 50
will graduate**

Foster youth graduate college at the lowest
rate of any demographic group in the US

End the trend



Questions?