

GENESEO

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESEO

Office of the Provost

Student Retention WIG Update

January 13, 2020

Dear Colleagues:

The WIG team is committed to improving student retention and enhancing our culture to help ensure student success.

Three things we've accomplished recently:

- Throughout the fall semester, we connected with students individually who had not yet registered for spring courses to offer help and support so they could register before leaving for break. Our advisors answered questions, addressed concerns, and helped resolve issues – and many students successfully registered for the spring semester.
- Our searches for Associate Provost for Academic Success and Assistant Dean for Accessibility were successful in yielding student-focused finalists. Dr. Joe Cope, who has been serving as interim, was selected as finalist for the Associate Provost for Academic Success position. Dr. Amy Fisk, formerly Cornerstone Program Coordinator at Purchase College, will join us on February 6, 2020 as the Assistant Dean for Accessibility. Please help us to welcome them to their positions.
- Recent data analysis shows that our pilot First Year Seminar course for undeclared FY/FT students contributed significantly to retention of first year students. The percentage of fall to spring retention among students who took the INTD 188 seminar is considerably higher than other cohorts such as undeclared FY/FT students who didn't take the FYS course and all FY/FT students.

Three things you can do:

- Offer a friendly hello or extend an invitation to assist our transfer and returning students as they begin the new semester. Your support can be reassuring – and will remind them why they chose Geneseo! Making a connection with a faculty or staff member is a key indicator of student success. Even a small gesture that shows concern for our students' well-being can help reinforce that they are a valued part of our community.
- Publish your syllabus (and your course) in Canvas – and include some or all of the student-centered resources sections found [here](#). To request help from CIT with uploading your syllabus and/or publishing your course, use [this form](#).
- Attend [ASSEStivus](#) on January 21 9:00-3:30 and interact with others in "Assessing our Strategies for Recruitment and Retention of Underrepresented Populations." The

keynote address will be given at 11:00 a.m. by Dr. Sim Covington, Chief Diversity Officer at Finger Lakes Community College.

“My Geneseo Moment”

Florence “Flossie” Stephens ’05, acting director of Geneseo’s Access Opportunity Programs, majored in History with an adolescent education certification. She earned her master’s in adult education from Buffalo State College, and worked previously at Alfred State College.

“In January of my sophomore year, my father suffered a catastrophic stroke and had to enter an assisted care facility for the remainder of his life. His illness had a huge impact on the financial situation of my family since my mother worked only part-time. I wasn’t sure I would be financially able to continue my studies at Geneseo and I was going home frequently to help my mother apply for financial assistance for my father’s care. It was the Geneseo faculty and staff who helped me to pull through and complete my degree. My professors, especially professor Joe Cope, were very understanding if I had to miss a class to go home. The staff in the Admissions Office where I worked was great about letting me sit with them and talk things through despite my many tears. They also helped to connect me with the Financial Aid office who worked with me and my mother to provide more aid due to our change in circumstances. The Geneseo community really came together to help and support me at a time when I felt financially and emotionally fragile. Without the support of the faculty and staff during this time, it is likely I would not have completed my degree here. This moment, as difficult as it was, built the desire in me to always serve students in need. I want to help and support students the way I felt helped and supported by Geneseo.”

All my best,
Stacey

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