

# GENESEO

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESEO

Office of the Provost

## Student Retention WIG Update

May 1, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

We're only weeks away from the magic of commencement, which underscores the importance of our retention efforts. Our WIG team continues to focus efforts to increase the percentage of first-year, first-time Geneseo students who return for a second year from 86% to 88% by October 2019.

### **Three things we've accomplished in the last month:**

- We launched another round of Registration 2.0 to contact current students who haven't registered for the fall term, providing help with course registration, financial aid, and other concerns.
- We developed an innovative syllabus and course design workshop for new and current faculty. The two-hour webinars – to be offered Thursday, June 13 and Friday, August 9 – are designed to encourage early thinking in support of creative and student-centered teaching approaches prior to the fall semester. Dave Parfitt, Joe Cope, and Lytton Smith are leading the project, collaborating with Joe Dolce and Becky Patt in CIT. To register, email Dave at [parfitt@geneseo.edu](mailto:parfitt@geneseo.edu).
- We arranged a workshop on high-impact online teaching that will bring classics scholar and educational technologist [Rebecca Frost Davis](#) to campus Tuesday, May 21. This one-day session reflects our commitment to improving the quality and range of our online offerings through faculty development. Dr. Davis will share strategies on incorporating high-impact practices to increase student engagement in online and hybrid courses. Participants will be compensated \$250 for attending. Special thanks to Paul Schacht and I-team representatives from CIT, Milne Library, the Teaching and Learning Center, and the Office of the Provost. The deadline to [apply](#) is May 5; participants will be announced in early May.

### **One thing you can do:**

With finals beginning May 10, students may be experiencing higher levels of stress inside and outside the classroom, particularly in light of recent social media posting incidents that are not reflective of who we are as an inclusive community. Try to take time to provide a few extra minutes to listen and offer feedback, reaffirm our shared commitment to our [core value of inclusivity](#), or demonstrate a random act of kindness. Our words and deeds can help students gain greater self-assurance regarding their academic progress and their contributions to building a strong campus community.

## **“My Geneseo Moment”**

*Keith Walters '11 majored in business administration after transferring from Monroe Community College through its 2+2 program. The campus community knows him best for the compelling and memorable photos – many award-winning – that he captures and creates through his passion for visual communications. As Director of Multimedia, Keith oversees the College's photography and videography needs, and contributes to social media initiatives that help tell Geneseo's story.*

I remember being assigned as a student photographer to cover the Athletics Hall of Fame dinner in the fall of 2010. One alumna gave remarks after receiving her award, and I became very emotional. Hearing the impact Geneseo had on her made me realize the impact it had on me as I looked ahead to my own graduation. I was fortunate a position opened up, and I was hired. Geneseo has given me everything – my job, my education – I even met my wife here. When I'm at commencement, I always think about the graduates who have to sing the alma mater, and it didn't mean anything to me at the time, but the last line now gets to me. “With our life's work, we'll repay.” That really speaks to me.

All my best,

Stacey

Stacey Robertson, Ph.D.  
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs  
SUNY Geneseo | One College Circle | Erwin Hall 207  
Geneseo NY 14454  
(585) 245-5531 | [robertsons@geneseo.edu](mailto:robertsons@geneseo.edu)  
She/her/hers | Safe-Zone Trained 2018 | [LinkedIn](#)



*Keith's favorite photo (taken in 2013) won Best of Show in the University Photographers Association competition.*