



STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESEO

Office of the Provost

Student Retention WIG Update

January 25, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

We're happy to begin the New Year with a continued focus on retention, as our [WIG](#) team works toward our goal of increasing 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 conducted a team retreat and have refined our focus to center WIG initiatives on four distinct areas: **Academic Support Services**, such as registration, advising, and early alert; **Curriculum**, such as the First-Year Experience (including a pilot course for undeclared students), parachute courses, transfer-friendliness, and infused cultural competency; **Professional Development**, such as "right fit" advising across the institution, assisting new faculty with syllabus construction, and creating a "learning-centered, growth-mindset" culture; and **Student Health and Wellbeing**, such as "fail forward" and institutional mentor programs.
- Academic Affairs has gathered information about resources across campus that students can use to support their academic success and wellbeing. This effort helps collect student support resources information in one place and raises the visibility of offices and programs that directly assist our students. The material – available on the college [wiki](#) and also as a Canvas Commons document – is compiled in a format that can easily be incorporated into course syllabi and Canvas, or referenced during the semester.
- We are supporting a collaborative partnership between The Center for Integrative Learning and Student Life in their project to identify and implement intentional practices to enhance connections between curricular and co-curricular life. The new venture focuses on eight of the college's 13 residential Living-Learning Communities (LLC). It will identify LLC Fellows to work and collaborate with Student Life Area Coordinators, Resident Directors, and student Resident Assistants based in LLCs that engage with the following themes: global citizenship and service; sustainability (environmental/ economic/social); the arts; food and food cultures; cultural experiences; science and education; well-being; and creative and academic writing. Fellows will be selected this spring.

One thing you can do:

Have you ever interacted with a student you were concerned about, but unsure of how to respond? Take advantage of [Kognito At-Risk](#), an interactive training course designed to empower faculty and staff to help students in distress. Learn how to identify students in need,

talk to them about their concerns, and refer them to additional resources. The training is an easy way to practice skills and feel more confident in supporting students within your specific role on campus. It's quite engaging and 98% of participants would recommend it to a colleague!

"My Geneseo Moment"

Pema Sherpa '19, majoring in neuroscience with a concentration in pre-med studies, spent last semester interning in Nepal, as the Eddie Lee '76 First Generation Ambassador administered through the Center for Integrative Learning (CIL). She shadowed pediatric surgeons at Kathmandu Model and Grande International Hospitals, using her ambassadorship grant money to help provide eye care health services to more than 700 children in a rural area.

"I received an incredible amount of support from my peers and faculty at Geneseo while applying for the Ambassadorship program. Dr. Michael Mills, director of National Fellowships and Scholarships, encouraged me to apply when I had self-doubts about whether I would receive it – and he has been constantly supportive. Being separated from my parents at nine months old limited the impactful number of role models and also deprived me of parental guidance and support throughout my childhood. Dr. Mills has truly become a mentor, role model, influencer, and ultimately, a reliable support system – the person my younger self needed. Had I not received his help, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to change the lives of so many children and families, or even thought about initiating a project that has shaped my career path."

What an inspirational experience – made possible by Michael, our CIL team, and donors like Eddie Lee '76 who work together to change students' lives. Here's to a great 2019!

All my best,

Stacey

Stacey Robertson, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
SUNY Geneseo
1 College Circle, Erwin Hall 207
Geneseo, NY 14454
(585) 245-5531
robertsons@geneseo.edu