

# GENESE0

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESE0

Office of the Provost

## Student Retention WIG Update

February 27, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

Our WIG team continues to work toward the 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:

- [Steve Prince's visit to campus](#) January 28-February 1 put high-impact practices and student engagement on display. Students not only had the opportunity to learn about this acclaimed artist's work in a Lederer Gallery exhibit, but also had the opportunity to engage in creative work with him during his week-long public art project in the MacVittie Union. This event was a part of this semester's extraordinary course, *The Art of Steve Prince*, taught by Distinguished Teaching Professor of English Beth McCoy and supported by the Center for Integrative Learning and faculty from eight academic and administrative departments.
- We supported the Developmental Advising series, "Lunch & Learn," co-hosted by Academic Planning and Advising and the Teaching and Learning Center on Feb. 25. This session advocated "growth mindset" thinking for both advisors and students as a way to support good habits for academic success. The next advising "Lunch & Learn" workshops are March 4 and 11 in Milne 208.
- We collaborated with Milne Library colleagues in their successful planning of the upcoming SUNY [Open Education Resources Week](#) events at Geneseo March 4-8 as part of a global initiative that seeks to raise awareness of free and open sharing in education and the benefits to teachers and students. Creative Commons' founding member and Harvard law professor Lawrence Lessig will deliver the keynote address at 7:30 p.m., Wednesday, March 6 in Wadsworth Auditorium. Special thanks to Alexis Clifton, Amanda Wentworth, Ben Rawlins, and Paul Schacht for their efforts in planning SUNY OER Week, sponsored by the Milne Open Services Team.

### One thing you can do:

A strong sense of community promotes both mental and physical health and fosters a deep sense of belonging. Please make time to attend either – or even better, **both** – of these upcoming events designed to promote a caring and compassionate community. The [Diversity Summit](#) – Friday, March 1 – features a keynote address, "Creating a Social-Justice-Centered Approach to Diversity," by scholar-activist Dennis Childs, and more than 15 presentations by faculty, staff, and students. The 2nd annual [Mental Health Town Hall](#) will be held Monday,

March 11, 4-5:30 p.m. in Newton 204. You may submit questions for the town hall [here](#).

**“My Geneseo Moment”**

*Student Association President Corey Wilkinson '19 is majoring in physics with a mathematics minor. He has been a summer research assistant in the Department of Physics and Astronomy, working under the supervision of Distinguished Teaching Professor Dr. Stephen Padalino in the fields of high energy density physics and inertial confinement fusion. Through his involvement, Corey attended two national conferences.*

“I have been fortunate to interact with many amazing faculty, staff, and administrators through my various roles on campus. After my first semester taking Analytical Physics I with Dr. Padalino, he encouraged me to look into summer research opportunities – and I was able to join his research group doing neutron time-of-flight experiments on the 1.7MV Pelletron Accelerator. That led to two consecutive summer research assistantships where I had hands-on experience developing and completing my own experiments. I was even able to attend two national conferences of the American Physical Society’s Division of Plasma Physics and present my research to experts in the field. My work with Dr. Padalino has reassured my interest in pursuing physics and has provided me with the skills and experience I need to do just that.”

Undergraduate research as provided by Steve – and so many faculty and staff across campus – is a vitally important high-impact practice that provides our students with experience that supports their success. Thank you for your dedicated efforts to prepare our students for the future.

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](mailto:robertsons@geneseo.edu)