

# GENESE0

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESE0

Office of the Provost

## **Student Retention WIG Update November 27, 2018**

Dear Colleagues:

As you know, our [WIG](#) team is working 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:**

- The Teaching and Learning Center designed an informative session titled, "Student Mental Health and Well-being: Where Do Faculty Fit In?" – **scheduled for this Wednesday, November 28 from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in Milne 208**. Laura Swanson, Lauderdale Health & Counseling, and Joe Cope, interim associate provost for student success, will share data and facilitate discussion regarding what faculty are noticing in and out of the classroom – and what we can do as a community to support our students.
- As part of Registration 2.0, we conducted a proactive outreach to students who haven't yet registered for the spring term, communicating with them through reminder postcards, emails, and phone calls.
- We are collaborating with the Center of Academic Excellence and Lecturer of Biology Rob Feissner, who oversees the Supplemental Instruction program, to enhance SI offerings. SI is a voluntary academic assistance program that utilizes peer-led group study to help students succeed in traditionally difficult STEM courses—those with high unsuccessful completion rates (D, E, W). This fall, 12 courses and 21 course sections utilized SI support; 26 SI instructors taught 46 weekly sessions. Next semester, SI will expand to include 5 sections of calculus, with 13 courses and 31 course sections offering SI support.

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

Student mental health and well-being is of paramount concern on college campuses today, and Geneseo is no exception. A number of factors create stress that can lead to physical and mental health issues – and faculty are often on the front lines to first notice and respond to students in need. Plan to attend the "Student Mental Health and Well-being: Where Do Faculty Fit In?" session **Wednesday, November 28, 2:30-3:45 p.m. in Milne 208** to learn what you can do – and how we can support our faculty to promote student mental health and well-being.

## **“My Geneseo Moment”**

*Paul Grassi '96, partner and senior vice president of cybersecurity at Easy Dynamics Corporation, majored in business administration with a minor in computer science. In his junior year, then School of Business Assistant Dean and Internship Coordinator Roseann Mayo encouraged him to apply for a Preferred Care scholarship, which offered paid tuition, an internship, and summer employment. That experience proved advantageous during an on-campus interview with a vice president and Geneseo alumnus with a global management consulting firm – which ultimately hired him.*

“Many people impacted me at Geneseo. Getting that scholarship, beyond the financial benefit, put me into a real workplace environment for two years, with all the experiences that come with it. I was able to walk into interviews and interact as a peer with the interviewer ... and talk about true business application because of the investment Preferred Care made in me. That all came from Ms. Mayo and the amazing thing she did for me, plus a Geneseo alum traveling from D.C. to snowy Geneseo to hire students. That materially shaped who I am today.”

I am delighted to share that Paul will come back to campus in spring 2019 to teach a course and begin recruiting discussions with Geneseo students. His story confirms that what we do for our students today can last a lifetime!

All my best,

Stacey

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