

GENESE0

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESE0

Office of the Provost

Student Retention WIG Update

August 28, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

During the summer, the WIG team continued 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:

- The Provost's Office secured funding support from the Strategic Planning Group to sponsor a first-year seminar for undeclared first-year students this fall. This course will focus on enhancing advisement to undeclared students as they explore different options for a major and reinforcing college success skills. INTD 188: First Year Seminar was offered to all undeclared students during first-year orientation, and 83 students are enrolled across five sections for the fall.
- We held the second of two innovative syllabus and course design workshops for new and current faculty as a webinar August 15 – designed to encourage early thinking in support of creative and student-centered teaching approaches prior to the fall semester. We will now roll this out to faculty as a stand-alone online course module, with more information [here](#). In addition, faculty may complete a canvas course anytime on their own to learn best practices. To enroll, contact Dave Parfitt at parfitt@geneseo.edu or x5336.
- We completed the editing and production process to convert our student and alumni "My Geneseo Moment" vignettes from print to digital format with photos. They're on display in the monitor in Erwin lobby. Special thanks to Rebecca Sisson '20 and Sue Chichester '79 for spearheading this project.

One thing you can do:

Offer a friendly hello or extend an invitation to assist our first-year, transfer, and returning students as they begin a new academic year. Your support can be reassuring — and reminds 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 demonstrates kindness can help reinforce that they are a valued member of our community.

"My Geneseo Moment"

Biology major and three-sport student-athlete Tim Chichester '10 earned his Bachelor of Science while competing all four years in cross country, and indoor and outdoor track. A driven runner,

Tim was the second American to cross the finish line in the 2012 Boston Marathon (placing 11th). In 2016, he qualified for – and ran – in the Olympics trials. He set the course record in winning the Wineglass Marathon in Corning in 2017, and won the 2018 Buffalo Marathon to again qualify for the Olympics trials in Atlanta next February. He currently teaches science at Arkport Central School and coaches cross country at Mt. Morris High School.

“One of the biggest deciding factors in attending Geneseo was Coach Mike Woods, better known by his runners as ‘Woodsie.’ I first met him as a sophomore at Mt. Morris, humbled that he came to watch me run at a small school dual meet. As my coach, Woodsie taught me many things about being a distance runner, but his most important lessons translated to life. He taught me to believe in myself completely, whether I was running on the track or taking an organic chemistry exam. Woodsie was all about the slogan ‘Believe’ – in yourself, your teammates, your coach. I can’t imagine my Geneseo experience without Coach Woods; he is – and continues to be – an inspiration and model. Being part of a sports team at Geneseo was one of the best decisions I ever made.”

All my best,

Stacey

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