

# GENESE0

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESE0

Office of the Provost

## Student Retention WIG Update

September 28, 2018

Dear Colleagues:

In pursuit of attaining our “wildly important goal,” the [WIG](#) team continued to make progress 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 created a new home for the Center for Integrative Learning (CIL) in Doty 303 to help foster and support credit-bearing activities that bring together our students’ co-curricular, academic, and community-oriented work. Under the leadership of CIL Director Lytton Smith, the Center is poised to make Geneseo an even more exciting place for collaborative work on and beyond campus.
- We’ve invested approximately \$200,000 to make improvements to 61 classrooms based on research and findings provided by the Learning Environments Resource Team, established last fall. Adding flexible furniture, additional whiteboards, and technology creates a more functional classroom space, which in turn supports teaching and promotes student retention.
- We’ve expanded our WIG team to include wider campus representation. Our newest members are Chief Diversity Officer robbie routenberg ’05; Student Health Counselor Laura Swanson; Associate Director of Student Life Sarah Frank; Office of Enrollment Management Secretary Roxanne Sammons; and Student Representative Alyssa Kenyon ’21, majoring in communication.

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

With mid-terms approaching, students may be experiencing higher levels of stress inside and outside the classroom. Especially this time of year, demonstrating a little compassion goes a long way. Whether posting midterm grades in a timely manner, providing a few extra minutes to listen and offer feedback, or sharing a random act of kindness, our efforts can help students gain greater self-assurance regarding their academic progress. That can make a world of difference.

### **“My Geneseo Moment”**

*Kelsey Roberts ’21 (theatre and communication), wrote the following reflection that was shared by Visiting Assistant Professor of Communication Lee Pierce. It has been edited for brevity.*

“I have enjoyed many things about Geneseo since arriving here; the small class sizes, personal attention, low cost of living, and study abroad opportunities are all excellent. However, I have also been disappointed ...and culturally, the campus feels a little flat, especially when I think about what it would be like to go to school in D.C. where many of my friends are.

I was struggling to decide whether to transfer in the fall of 2017. At the time, I was enrolled in Dr. Lee Pierce’s Public Speaking class. Dr. Pierce wasn’t my advisor, but I really felt comfortable expressing my concerns, knowing I would get a sympathetic ear.

Those conversations helped me realize that while Geneseo isn’t everything I could ever want or need, it doesn’t have to be. It has the things that I most need right now, like being able to chat with a professor about a major life event. I still often look out a window wishing to see the bustle of a big city, but rest easier knowing that I am well-supported by professors as I build the foundation to live the biggest, busiest, most worthwhile life I can imagine once I graduate.”

Kelsey makes such an insightful observation: sometimes things don’t have to be perfect to be right. Thank you, Lee, for helping Kelsey reach this conclusion – and to all of you who make time to be available to our students.

Take time to enjoy the fall before it leaves!

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)