

GENESEO

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESEO

Office of the Provost

Student Retention WIG Update

March 29, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

It is hard to believe we are already through the first quarter of 2019! Our WIG team continues to focus efforts on retention 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 prepared a proposal that we will submit as part of SUNY's [PRODiG](#) program (Promoting Recruitment, Opportunity, Diversity, Inclusion and Growth). This initiative aims to inspire underrepresented students by increasing the diversity of SUNY faculty across the system including minority faculty in general and women faculty of all races in STEM fields.
- We created a WIG scorecard – a large poster displayed in the Erwin 206 conference room – that will chart our progress in four key initiatives: Academic Support Services, Curriculum, Professional Development, and Student Health and Well Being. We will begin to “populate” the poster with Post-it Notes highlighting accomplishments in those areas. Stop by and check it out!
- We developed a course quality enhancement workshop series in collaboration with CIT that offers five different sessions (April 1, 8, 10, 24, and 29) beginning at 3:30 p.m. in South 225. Faculty are invited to partner with an instructional designer for a deep dive into quality course design. The workshops will walk through specific guiding questions and talk through various answers. Participants are encouraged to bring a device that will allow them to create something specific to course content. Take this opportunity to refresh a course and register [here](#).

One thing you can do:

Grades – and corresponding academic progress – are a leading stress factor among students each semester. Faculty can help alleviate student anxiety and support student success by providing early, consistent, and meaningful grade feedback via Canvas or one-on-one meetings. The time you invest offering feedback to students on their academic performance can have tremendous positive impact.

“My Geneseo Moment”

[Howard Blumenthal '74](#) majored in English with a minor in journalism and education. He served as editor-in-chief of *The Lamron*, head of programming for WGSU (student radio station), and the first series producer for GSTV (student TV station), which he helped launch. Today, he's best known as the creator and producer of “*Where in the World Is Carmen Sandiego?*” – the Peabody

and Emmy Award-winning PBS series about geography and world cultures. Blumenthal is also the founder of Kids on Earth, an organization that promotes global citizenship, and he serves as a Visiting Scholar at The Annenberg School for Communication at The University of Pennsylvania.

“After my first year, I was unhappy with my major in speech communications and started to look at other colleges but none seemed suitable. So my first visit was to Joan Schumacher, dean of the College. She suggested English so that I’d graduate having read important books. I tried, but it wasn’t working. I went back, and Joan said, ‘We have a path that we don’t usually tell many students about; it’s called an independent study. You choose what you want to learn – but you have to find someone willing to work with you.’ I found Jim Garvey, an English professor whose interest was in American Literature. We developed a plan, and I read all the works by Arthur Miller, John Steinbeck, Jack Kerouac.... I became curious to read other writers. I then spent two semesters writing a book on rock music, also an independent study. I gained the confidence that I could take on a big subject and learn about it on my own schedule with my own determination. I could decide how deep and how wide I wanted to go. The gift from Joan and Jim not only made all the difference at Geneseo, but for my entire career.”

All my best,

Stacey

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