

GENESE0

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESE0

Office of the Provost

Student Retention WIG Update

December 3, 2019

Dear Colleagues:

The WIG team is committed to improving student retention and enhancing our culture to help ensure student success.

Three things we've accomplished in the last month:

- We launched the [GPS program](#) (Geneseo Points of Support) to help students address critical problems by providing them with guides who assist with navigating unfamiliar institutional processes. Faculty and staff can now use a GPS Referral Form to recommend students to the program.
- We held a discussion November 13 on [Dominant Narratives](#) – part of a series of programs focused on growth mindset and student-centered pedagogy. Dominant narratives serve the interests of dominant social groups while minimizing the experiences of others. While they often pass as objective, they are not, and they can influence our assumptions and lead to prescriptive, rather than collaborative, practices in teaching, advising, and support. Participants addressed the question, “How do we define the ‘typical Geneseo student’?” to better recognize dominant narratives and brainstorm counter narratives to foster a culture of equitable opportunities for learning and growth.
- We continued planning for the seventh annual [ASSESStivus](#). This year’s event features a new approach and a new date on Tuesday, January 21, 2020, the day before classes begin for spring semester. ASSESStivus will focus on assessing recruitment and retention strategies from underrepresented groups; sessions will offer a practical workshop format for program assessment coordinators. Presentations should address programs in place or in the planning phase, how we assess these programs, and/or how to respond to data that we collect.

One thing you can do:

The end of the semester can bring additional stress to students not only from academic demands but emotional feelings associated with the holidays. Recognize that this time of year means many different things for our students. Be kind, and be available if you notice students who are in distress. We are stronger together.

“My Geneseo Moment”

Dr. Kathleen Rose '79 earned a Bachelor of Arts in English and Elementary Education from SUNY Geneseo, and a Master of Education in Counseling and Guidance and a Doctorate in Education from the University of Arizona. In June, 2016, she was named president of Gavilan College in Gilroy, California. Originally from Canandaigua, N.Y., Kathleen returned to Geneseo during Homecoming and Family Weekend this past September as one of four Geneseo alumni now holding college presidencies.

"Dr. Ron Herzman was one of my English faculty members at Geneseo, and I was thrilled he made the time to come see me at the alumni event in September. I took my first course with Dr. Herzman in Chaucer as a sophomore. I was a farm girl and had no idea what I was doing taking that class, but he made old English and the storytelling very significant in the life of a 20-year old. I went on to take a couple of sections of Shakespeare from him. I learned how to write and express myself and read literature in a deeper way. I have a quote in my office from Thich Nhat Hanh – 'Understanding is the fruit of looking deeply' – and I attribute that idea to my time with Dr. Herzman. It wasn't until I took courses like those with Ron that I understood the depth of the great authors of literature – that I could think deeply. And once you understand that, it really changes one's life."

All my best,
Stacey

Stacey Robertson, Ph.D.
Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
SUNY Geneseo | One College Circle | Erwin Hall 207
Geneseo NY 14454
(585) 245-5531 | robertsons@geneseo.edu
She/her/hers | Safe-Zone Trained 2018 | [LinkedIn](#)