

GENESE0

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT GENESE0

Office of the Provost

Student Retention WIG Update

November 6, 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 held our inaugural “Teach to Engage” Day October 15 at Buckland Park to better identify who our students are and ways to support and empower them to achieve academic success. The workshop also featured several activities designed to help us better tell the story of Geneseo’s dynamic and engaging learning opportunities and shape our work going forward. Special thanks to Interim Associate Provost for Student Success and Professor of History Joe Cope for leading this exciting initiative attended by more than 70 faculty and staff across multiple campus divisions.
- We developed an interactive [map](#) – taking a cue from [Nature Rx: Improving College-Student Mental Health](#) – that highlights campus and surrounding green-space areas that students can utilize for wellness in nature initiatives. The map includes descriptions of the areas as well as photos of each spot and tips on when to best use the space. Thanks to Keith Walters, director of multimedia, for developing this tool.
- We offered nature walks in the Roemer Arboretum to help bridge the gap between students and the natural world. The one-hour walks hosted by Keith Walters and Dan DeZarn, director of sustainability, offer time away from phones and screens to help students focus instead on mindfulness and the natural surroundings. Benefits from spending even a short amount of time outside include increased energy levels, improved immunity, lower blood pressure, and less stress and anxiety.

One thing you can do:

Participate in our seventh annual [ASSESStivus](#) Tuesday, January 21, 2020, the day before spring semester classes start. The event will focus on assessing recruitment and retention strategies for underrepresented groups and will feature a practical workshop format for program assessment coordinators. Anyone interested in presenting may submit a [proposal](#) by Friday, November 15, or contact Interim Associate Provost for Assessment and Curriculum Melanie Blood at blood@geneseo.edu or ext. 5531.

“My Geneseo Moment”

Patty Hamilton-Rodgers '85 (B.A., Communication) has devoted her entire career to higher education, with various stops in multiple states before returning to her alma mater in 2001. After serving in alumni relations, she joined the Office of the Provost in 2011 and currently serves as Sponsored Research Associate and GREAT Day coordinator. She also is the advisor for Geneseo Colleges Against Cancer.

“I started out as an undeclared major and dabbled in several along the way. Yet, I wasn’t satisfied. I remember the late Dr. John Hoey, associate professor emeritus of English, telling me: ‘It’s as important to know what you don’t want to do as what you do want to do.’ I’ve never forgotten his advice, which I’ve shared with many Geneseo students over the past 18 years. And they often pause and go ‘hmmm’ – just like I did. I chose to major in communication the end of my sophomore year, but most of my formative education occurred outside of the classroom. I worked in the college reservations and activities office 20 hours a week with Tom Matthews, and was on the activities commission and also chaired the Limelight Series my senior year. That’s really what gave my life direction in terms of my career and passion.”

All my best,
Stacey

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