Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs
SUNY Geneseo, a forward-looking, selective public liberal arts college with a rich tradition of academic excellence, seeks an experienced academic leader to serve as Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

SUNY Geneseo is consistently ranked among the best public undergraduate institutions in the country. The campus of approximately 4,150 students is located in the historic village of Geneseo in the beautiful Finger Lakes region of Western New York, 30 minutes from Rochester, on land that originally belonged to the peoples who are now the Seneca Nation of Indians and the Tonawanda Seneca Nation.

The 150-year-old institution is renowned for achieving remarkable results—even when facing challenges. The College has gained momentum through the pandemic, with a recently updated curriculum emphasizing diversity, pluralism, antiracism, global awareness, sustainability, and integrative learning, and with major renovations to multiple core buildings underway. Founded in 1871 as a Normal and Training School, SUNY Geneseo is one of the original campuses of the SUNY system, established in 1948. It has evolved into a nationally recognized, selective public liberal arts college with undergraduate and graduate programs of study. SUNY Geneseo is proud of its status as New York State’s sole member of the Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges (COPLAC).

Geneseo has carved a distinctive niche in the higher education market by competing for outstanding students with some of the most exceptional private colleges in the nation. The institution offers 50 undergraduate degree programs, 26 interdisciplinary minors, and graduate programs in accounting and education. Nearly 50% of Geneseo’s undergraduate students have a double major and/or both a major and a minor. Geneseo has a strong history of undergraduate research support, and approximately 70% of Geneseo’s faculty report having worked with undergraduate students on research.
The Opportunity

SUNY Geneseo seeks an action-oriented, inclusive, innovative, and transparent academic leader to serve as the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. The next provost will join the SUNY Geneseo community to build on the institution’s history as a premier liberal arts college and position it solidly for the next decade. Reporting to President Denise A. Battles and serving as a member of the President’s Cabinet, the provost and vice president for academic affairs is responsible for the college’s academic programs and associated support services. The provost works closely with the campus executive team and leads the institution-wide strategic planning process in partnership with the vice president for finance and administration, as well as ongoing institutional assessment, and accreditation through the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

The provost leads the College’s 18 academic departments, a CAEP-accredited School of Education, and an AACSB-accredited School of Business. SUNY Geneseo is accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education; a recent reaffirmation noted no recommendations or requirements and contained eight formal Recognitions of Accomplishments, Progress, or Exemplary/Innovative Practices.

The provost also directs curriculum and assessment, academic planning and advising, the registrar, access opportunity programs, the libraries, computing and information technology, campus events and scheduling, academic communications, sustainability, and career design. In addition, the Provost’s Office supports a variety of centers, including those for teaching and learning, digital learning, integrative learning, and interdisciplinary programs, and the offices of institutional research, national fellowships and scholarships, study abroad, accessibility services, and sponsored research.

University Leadership

Dr. Denise A. Battles has served as President of SUNY Geneseo since 2015, marking a return to her native upstate New York. A geologist by education, her career has been dedicated to serving in public higher education institutions, and she has held faculty and administrative appointments in Georgia, Colorado, and North Carolina. Dr. Battles has also served in leadership and/or Board roles in multiple higher education associations, including the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), American Council on Education’s (ACE) Council of Fellows, Association of Chief Academic Officers, and Council of Public Liberal Arts Colleges. Reflecting her interest in STEM gender equity issues, she served for six years on the editorial board of the Journal of Diversity in Higher Education.

Leadership Opportunities and Challenges

- **Academic Programs and Innovation:** The provost will work with the chairs, deans, and faculty to create and implement new, entrepreneurial academic programs to align with the College’s goal of becoming an Equity-Minded Honors College. New programs will exhibit various modalities, reach diverse student populations, advance Geneseo’s physical presence in Rochester and the region, align with strategic plan implementation, and expand programmatic revenue-generation. The provost will take the lead to advance the implementation of the new curriculum; the integrative and applied learning graduation requirement; and new baccalaureate learning outcomes. The provost will also accelerate progress toward building an equity-minded learning experience.

- **Sustainability and Mission-Aligned Growth:** Demographic shifts, pandemic impacts, and a broad need to reckon with pervasive structural inequities impact the academy and American society in general. SUNY Geneseo views these changes as opportunities to grow and refine its identity as a public liberal arts institution. The next provost will engage with the College’s communities to take bold action to ensure the stability of programs, support student recruitment and success, ensure a welcoming environment for all, advance equity initiatives, create strategic growth, and support institutional, environmental, and financial sustainability.

- **Community Engagement and the Geneseo Experience:** With a deep appreciation for the history of Geneseo, the new provost will lead the academic mission during a period of significant change and expanding opportunities for students and faculty. The provost will be a strong advocate for academic and faculty affairs and maintain a tradition of high-functioning relationships with faculty.
governance and the faculty and staff members who are part of the United University Professionals and CSEA unions, building on Geneseo’s recent receipt of the 2022 SUNY Shared Governance Award. The provost will foster positive relationships and lead a high-functioning Academic Affairs team as Geneseo capitalizes on new initiatives and programmatic opportunities.

Duties and Responsibilities

• Participate as a member of the president’s cabinet, collaborating with other members of the senior leadership team to advance the College’s goals
• Provide academic leadership and advocacy for the College’s academic mission
• Lead and manage the academic program portfolio, including programmatic evaluation, assessment, accreditation and the creation of new programs
• Lead academic alignment with the College’s commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, social justice, and sustainability
• Lead the financial strategy for the academic units/programs
• Execute plans and manage change as the academic units transition to a new era of Geneseo’s development
• Lead an academic organization less hierarchical than most and capitalize on its strengths to support the academic mission
• Diversify the learning experience through innovation, including the growth of non-credit programming
• Maintain clear and effective communication with the campus community
• Lead the academic portions of the new strategic plan, the development of which will be completed in December 2022
• Maintain Geneseo’s distinguished tradition of high quality academics and student learning
• Support faculty research, teaching, service, and retention
• Lead articulation agreements and grow regional/state partnerships
• Serve as the officer in charge in the absence of the president

Required Experience

The successful candidate will have:

• A record of progressively responsible and successful academic leadership roles in higher education
• A doctoral or terminal degree from an accredited institution
• A strong background in teaching, research, scholarly and/or creative activities, and service, demonstrating a record commensurate with appointment at the rank of professor with tenure
• Demonstrated and successful commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, belonging, and social justice

Desired Skills & Attributes

• Results-oriented with a proven ability to guide change, inspire optimism, and lead initiatives to completion
• A history of successful work in a shared governance environment with a demonstrated open, collaborative, and transparent leadership style
• Ability to advocate and work collaboratively with fellow cabinet members, faculty, staff, and senior leadership
• Strong management, problem-solving, negotiation and conflict management skills
• Ability to work with diverse constituents with differing opinions and build consensus toward a shared academic goal
• Ability to navigate challenges, stay the course, and remain steadfast to execute new initiatives
• Demonstrated ability to manage a team and empower academic stakeholders and staff
• Understanding of fiscal challenges facing liberal arts colleges, demonstrated financial management experience, and a history of generating new public and private resources
• Proven ability to modernize curriculum and embrace innovative pedagogy to attract new students and non-traditional learners
• Excellent interpersonal and communication skills, both verbal and written, along with strong listening skills
• Impeccable personal integrity, flexibility, optimism, humor, and a strong work ethic

Offices in Academic Affairs

Academic Advising • Academic Departments • Access Opportunity Programs • Accessibility Services • Campus Scheduling Events and Conference Services • Career Design Center • Center for Digital Learning • Center for Interdisciplinary Programs • Center for Integrative Learning • Center for Local and Municipal History • Computing and Information Technology • Curriculum and Assessment • Institutional Research • International Programs and Study Abroad • Milne Library • National Fellowships and Scholarships • Registrar • Sponsored Research • Sustainability • Teaching and Learning Center
Exceptional Outcomes

Geneseo sets high academic expectations for itself and its students. Its faculty are productive, nationally recognized scholars on the cutting edge of their disciplines. They are at the same time highly regarded teachers, devoted to ongoing pedagogical innovation. That dedication to quality instruction has been hearteningly and consistently recognized beyond the institution. For example, in the 2023 U.S. News & World Report rankings, Geneseo was once again identified as #1 in the Best Undergraduate Teaching category among regional universities in the North. This makes nine #1 appearances on this list since it was established 13 years ago.

It is also the only SUNY comprehensive college to shelter a chapter of Phi Beta Kappa. In 2018, Milne Library earned the Academic Libraries Award in the college category, placing it among the best in the nation for excellence in academic libraries among institutions of its type by the Association of College and Research Libraries.

As part of its liberal arts mission, Geneseo prepares its students to become responsible and engaged citizens who can assist the communities in which they live to become more diverse and inclusive, more globally aware, and more sustainable. As an indication of its success, for the ninth consecutive year, Geneseo was included in Washington Monthly’s top five U.S. Master’s institutions, this time placing second for its contributions to the public good; in 2021, it was ranked number one. Because of its mission and the quality of its educational programs, Geneseo attracts bright, inquisitive, highly motivated, and socially responsible students who make the most of the opportunities college affords them. With a mean first-year SAT score of 1251 and a mean high school grade-point average of 92.38, Geneseo is the most selective among public institutions for its six-year graduation rates among recipients of federal Pell grants. It is also among the top institutions in the nation of its type in the number of alumni with doctorates in the STEM disciplines, the number of U.S. Student Fulbright Awards its students and alumni receive, and the number of Peace Corps volunteers it produces.

For additional information about the College, please visit www.geneseo.edu.

Beautiful Setting

SUNY Geneseo is located in picturesque Geneseo, N.Y. An historic village and one of only 24 communities in the nation with its historic district recognized as a National Historic Landmark, Geneseo is a jewel of the Genesee Valley. With a population of approximately 8,000 residents, the small-town feel, stunning landscapes, and rolling farmlands combine with the vibrant energy of young students and the commitment to scholarship and learning from professors to make Geneseo one of the most desired areas to live in the western Finger Lakes region. In addition to local cafés, farmers markets, and unique shops, Geneseo’s location offers easy day-trip access to Niagara Falls; Toronto, Ont.; Watkins Glen, N.Y.; Buffalo, N.Y.; and Rochester, N.Y. Beautiful Letchworth State Park, recently voted the nation’s Best State Park, is within 10 miles of campus. The area offers reasonable cost of living options, making it ideal for families.

College Rankings

#9 among U.S. public highly residential institutions for four-year graduation rates
  • Chronicle of Higher Education, 2021

Transfer Honor Roll
  • Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society

Featured institution
  • Fiske Guide to Colleges, 2023

Best Value College
  • Princeton Review, 2022

#15 among U.S. public, four-year institutions for six-year graduation rates among recipients of federal Pell grants
  • Chronicle of Higher Education, 2021

#1 among more than 600 master’s universities in the nation for contributions to the public good
  • Washington Monthly magazine, 2022

#2 among more than 600 master’s universities in the nation for contributions to the public good
  • Washington Monthly magazine, 2022

One of the nation’s best institutions for undergraduate education
  • Princeton Review College Guide, 2023

Top Volunteer-Producing College
  • Peace Corps, 2020

Top Producer of U.S. Student Fulbright Awards—consecutive years
  • The State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

SUNY institutions and ranks in the top fifteen in the nation among public institutions for its six-year graduation rates among recipients of federal Pell grants. It is also among the top institutions in the nation of its type in the number of alumni with doctorates in the STEM disciplines, the number of U.S. Student Fulbright Awards its students and alumni receive, and the number of Peace Corps volunteers it produces.

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Community Commitment to Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

At SUNY Geneseo, we are a community of students, staff, faculty, and administrators living and working together in a spirit of inquiry so that, individually and collectively, we may achieve our full potential. Our community extends to the many graduates, retirees, and others who remain actively engaged in advancing our mission and values as a public liberal arts college.

Located in the historic homelands of the Seneca Nation of Indians and Tonawanda Seneca Nation, we at SUNY Geneseo have an obligation to recognize all who, through history or identity, have been marginalized or oppressed, made invisible or silenced.

We recognize that our own identities are many and varied, forged by culture, circumstance, and choice. Some of us inhabit multiple identities where histories of exclusion or injustice intersect.

We are here to listen, to learn, to teach, to debate, to change, to grow. We should all be safe to pursue these goals at SUNY Geneseo while being who we are. Together, we commit ourselves to pluralism, cultivating a community that respects difference and promotes a sense of inclusion and belonging.

Our differences, including those of opinion or perspective, make us stronger. Together, we commit ourselves to sustaining and expanding the diversity of our community and to making equity for all members of our diverse community a measure of our success.

We share responsibility for achieving these goals and for making Geneseo a place where each of us may contribute to and realize the promise of public liberal education: to broaden understanding, heighten awareness, awaken empathy, and foster empowerment.

Campus Life

A strongly residential college, Geneseo houses 49 percent of its students on campus. Of the institution’s students, 18.1 percent come from multicultural backgrounds; 98.2 percent are from New York State; 1 percent are out-of-state; 0.8 percent are international students. Geneseo is a very welcoming campus, and the close relationships formed among the various members of the community—faculty, staff, and students—are reminiscent of those found in a much smaller institution. Geneseo offers a vibrant student and campus life environment. As many as 1,000 students present scholarly and creative work at the annual GREAT Day. Students may participate in an award-winning leadership development program, a variety of community service programs, and more than 180 student-led organizations, including academic, performing arts, musical, cultural, and Greek.

The Geneseo Knights compete in 13 intercollegiate sports for women and eight for men at the NCAA Division III level in the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC). They have sustained an impressive record over many years, winning the six most recent SUNYAC commissioner’s cups for aggregate conference performance. The Department of Athletics also offers competition in 21 club sports and 31 intramural sports.

Student Body (as of Fall 2021)

4,486 Undergraduate 71 Graduate

hailing from 9 States and 9 Countries

• 98.2% from NY • 1% Out of state • .8% International

Retention and Graduation

First-year Retention Rate of 83.4% (National average: 75.7%)
Six-year Graduation Rate of 77.8% (National average: 60.1%)
As a wellspring of excellence in higher education, SUNY Geneseo is guided by its mission, vision, and values.

--- Mission Statement ---

We are a distinctive public liberal arts college that welcomes and inspires students to develop their knowledge and skills to build a better world. Our supportive, inclusive community is exceptional in cultivating creativity, engagement, and discovery. We find strength in diversity, joy in growth, and fulfillment in lifelong learning.

--- Vision ---

Geneseo will be widely recognized for demonstrating the enduring power of a public liberal arts education.

--- Values ---

The Geneseo campus community is guided by our beliefs in and commitments to the following values:

**Learning:** Embracing high expectations for intellectual inquiry, critical thinking, scholarly exploration, and personal growth.

**Creativity:** Empowering a spirit of innovation that inspires intellectual curiosity, self-expression, and problem-solving.

**Belonging:** Welcoming a diverse campus community that supports and celebrates different identities, promotes equity and inclusion, and respects the ideas and contributions of each individual.

**Civic Engagement:** Encouraging active participation grounded in self-reflection, empathy, and an ethical commitment to the common good of our local and global communities.

**Sustainability:** Building a culture of well-being that integrates and applies principles of environmental, social, and economic stewardship informed by an understanding of the past and our obligations to the future.

--- Application Process ---

The Provost/VP for Academic Affairs Search Committee will begin reviewing applications in late October, with the deadline for full consideration on Friday, November 4.

Applications must include a letter of interest, a CV and five professional references with email addresses, telephone numbers and an explanation of your professional relationship. (References will not be contacted without prior authorization from the applicant.)

Application materials and nominations should be sent electronically (Microsoft Word or PDF format) to:

SUNYGeneseoProvost@agbsearch.com.

The search is being assisted by:

Laura Woodworth-Ney, Ph.D., Principal
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Joy Yablonsky, Executive Search Consultant
joyyablonsky@agbsearch.com

Concetta M. Stewart, Ph.D., Principal

SUNY Geneseo is committed to fostering a diverse community of outstanding faculty, staff, and students, as well as ensuring equal educational opportunity, employment, and access to services, programs, and activities, without regard to an individual’s race, color, national origin, religion, creed, age, disability, sex, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, familial status, pregnancy, predisposing genetic characteristics, military status, domestic violence victim status, or criminal conviction.