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An Interview with Colleen Steward

Colleen Steward
SUNY Geneseo

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Hometown:

Gowanda, NY

Major:

Biochemistry

What have you been up to since graduating from Geneseo?

I am an aspiring biomedical researcher. After graduating from Geneseo, I plan on pursuing a PhD program in biochemistry. My long-term career goal is to conduct research at an academic institution while sharing my passion for science with undergraduate students as a professor.

Why do you feel that GREAT Day is important?

I believe the importance of GREAT Day is two-fold. GREAT Day strengthens our campus community by providing an opportunity to share our passions and projects. Students and faculty come together to support each other. Additionally, GREAT Day is a catalyst for professional development. The skill of presentation and clear communication is imperative in any job field and only comes through practice. In this way, I believe GREAT Day builds our campus community while preparing students to be successful after graduation.

What was your experience presenting your work at GREAT Day?

Presenting at GREAT Day is energizing. After spending long hours in the lab staring through microscopes and running reactions, it's fulfilling to be able to share and present our work. Packed with rows of posters and presenters, the ballroom is brimming with enthusiasm and energy on GREAT Day. It's a fun atmosphere to be a part of.

On GREAT Day, I love presenting to non-science majors the most. They may walk up to our poster thinking that they won't understand what we are working on, yet after our presentation, leave with a greater understanding and context for the applications of our research on biodiesel. For me, breaking the stigma that science is unaccessible or too abstract for people outside the field is especially rewarding.