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MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Andrea Goldsmith, President
Date: February 2, 2026
SUBJECT: President's Report

Executive Summary

University News

- **Goldsmith Inauguration:** Events are being planned from April 11 to 19 to celebrate the inauguration of Dr. Goldsmith as the seventh president of Stony Brook University. A complete schedule of events will be posted online: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/inauguration/>
- **State of the State Address:** President Goldsmith attended the 2026 State of the State Address where Governor Hochul introduced her planned investments and initiatives for the coming year. President Goldsmith's visit to Albany also included meetings with elected officials to discuss legislative priorities as the 2026 session kicks off.
- **Strategic Vision:** Efforts continue to craft a shared strategic vision for Stony Brook. Updates will be shared on the president's website, which also includes a place to share ideas for the university's future: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/pres/vision/plan.php>

State and Local Government Relations Update

- **State Budget Released:** On January 20, the Governor released her FY27 Executive Budget, which included a number of proposed initiatives important to Stony Brook:
 - A fourth year of increased operating aid (\$54M) for SUNY, mitigating the need to raise tuition.
 - The remaining \$100M to bring the total State investment in Stony Brook's Quantum Research and Innovation Hub to \$300M.
 - Legislative authority to build workforce housing for Stony Brook Medicine on the Southampton campus.
- **East End Legislative Breakfast:** On December 19, Stony Brook hosted its first legislative breakfast in Southampton welcoming over a dozen state and local government officials to discuss current and future opportunities to consider at the Southampton campus and East End healthcare practices.
- **Long Island Association:** Stony Brook was represented at two LIA events in January with university

leaders attending the annual State of the Region breakfast and President Goldsmith and Chief of Staff Jennifer Almquist joining Stony Brook Government Relations in representing the university at LIA's Pre-State of the State Reception.

- **Town-Gown Relationships:** The Office of Government and Community Relations worked with local government officials and community groups to secure funding to address two major projects:
 - Working with former Assemblyman and current New York State Legislator Steve Englebright, the university planted over 200 trees along Nicolls Road.
 - Working with Assemblywoman Kassay, the university demolished three condemned houses on East Campus, which improved parking options while the Stony Brook University Hospital garage repair projects are underway.

Federal Government Relations Update

- **FY26 Appropriations:** Congress remains on track to enact all 12 FY26 appropriations bills by the end of January. Overall, lawmakers rejected the Administration's proposed steep cuts to scientific research and student financial aid. Under the current omnibus framework: NIH's base budget is funded at \$47.2B (.09% increase), with an additional \$1.5B for ARPA-H; DoD receives \$145.9B for research, development, testing, and evaluation—\$4.7B above FY25 enacted levels; Department of Energy's Office of Science is funded at \$8.4B (a 2% increase); and Pell Grants remain flat-funded. NSF is funded at \$8.75B, representing a 3% reduction from FY25. Stony Brook-specific defense related research projects remain well positioned to receive \$14M in plus-up funding. Additionally, SBU is set to receive \$4M in Congressional Directed Spending (CDS) secured by Senators Schumer and Gillibrand to support the creation of a unique teaching and research laboratory focused on high-performance materials.
- **Stony Brook Medicine:** Rep. LaLota's *Save Our Safety Net Hospitals* Act passed the House as part of a broader healthcare package. The legislation addresses unintended consequences stemming from Section 203 of the 2021 Consolidated Appropriations Act, which modified the definition of Medicaid shortfall for purposes of calculating Medicaid Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) payments. Absent enactment, Stony Brook Medicine would continue to experience revenue losses exceeding \$50M annually. The Senate is expected to pass the bill.
- **Q1-Q2 Focus Areas:** Finalization of Stony Brook's FY27 federal appropriations priorities is underway. The university's Office of Federal Relations will execute an aggressive advocacy campaign on Capitol Hill during February–March to advance institutional priorities. Working with President Goldsmith, and in close coordination with the Office for Research and Innovation, there is continued engagement with the Administration, federal agencies, congressional offices, and key committees to influence policy and legislative outcomes, advance Stony Brook's priorities, and strengthen strategic partnerships.

Leadership Updates

- **Mónica Bugallo** was named interim vice president for research and innovation.
- **Art Lee** was named chief campus counsel.

Advancement

- Since the start of this fiscal year on July 1, 2025, we have secured \$87 million in gifts and pledges – a 42% increase over the \$61.4 million raised at this time last year.
- To date, we have received 132 gifts of \$100,000 or more, including 16 gifts of \$1 million or more. Gifts of \$1 million or more are on pace with last year, while the number of major gifts has grown by 43% (up from 92 at this point last year).
- Of the gifts closed so far this fiscal year, \$49.6 million were endowment commitments, compared to \$41.7 million at this time last year.
- Since the announcement of the New York State and Simons Infinity Investment matches in FY23, we have raised a total of \$166 million in endowment support toward our \$200 million multi-year goal.

- Notable gifts closed since the last update include:
 - \$12,000,000 to endow the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics
 - \$2,000,000 to support an artist or scholar in residence on the East End
 - \$750,000 for Renaissance School of Medicine programs and research
 - \$700,000 to benefit the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature
 - \$335,000 to promote cancer research at Stony Brook
 - \$333,000 to support CAS students and programs
 - \$333,333 for student scholarships in the School of Medicine MD program
 - \$333,333 for student scholarships in the Doctor of Dental Surgery program
 - \$250,000 to benefit the Alda Center for Communicating Science
 - \$254,095 to support programs and research at the Turkana Basin Institute

Athletics

- Stony Brook student-athletes earned a 3.36 cumulative GPA for the Fall term, the highest non-COVID semester in department history. All teams earned a GPA above 3.0 with Tennis leading the way with a department-best 3.74.
- Men's Basketball earned its fourth consecutive win over Hofstra, a 76-71 victory on Jan. 15, before defeating the College of Charleston for the first time in program history in a dramatic 112-106 double overtime win two days later. The 218 combined points tied a record for a CAA contest.
- Graduate student Erik Pratt was named National Player of the Week by the US Basketball Writers Association after becoming the first Division I player in the last 20 years to register at least 35 points and 13 rebounds with two or fewer turnovers, which he accomplished in the win over Charleston.
- Women's Basketball matched the program's best-ever start in CAA play with a 5-1 record while leading the conference in defense, allowing fewer than 56 points per game.
- Women's Lacrosse earned a No. 16 national ranking in the preseason USA Lacrosse poll while junior midfielder Isabella Caporuscio was named a preseason All-American. The team opens the 2026 season at LaValle Stadium on February 15 against Albany.
- Women's Soccer standouts Linn Beck and Reilly Rich were named United Soccer Coaches Scholar All-Americans. This honor recognizes student-athletes with a minimum 3.4 GPA who have also received All-American or All-Region status for their elite play.

Human Resources

- Led by HR Operations, the four HR organizations impacted by Wolfie One (HR Operations, University HR, Stony Brook Hospital and Long Island Veterans Home) are working closely with implementation partner, Deloitte, to provide input to the configuration and testing of Oracle Human Capital Management modules.
- The University HR team completed the preliminary design of a new job architecture for professional and managerial jobs at the university. A second phase of the job architecture project is underway to refine and implement the generic job framework in Oracle.
- HR leaders supported the Provost's Office and Dean of the Graduate School in updating stipend levels for more than 1100 Teaching and Graduate Assistants. They also supported the Research Foundation in completing negotiations with the CWA representing more than 900 Research Project Assistants (RPA's). A ratification vote on the agreement for RPA's is expected in late January.
- The executive search team in Talent Acquisition is supporting the recruitment of seven (7) key leadership positions across the institution.
- Led by the Employee Engagement team, HR is preparing for Employee Appreciation Day on March 6, 2026.

Marketing and Communications

- Office of the President – Special Projects: Led the creative direction and execution of the President's holiday card and holiday video. Directed all marketing and communications for the 2025 Stony Awards, including ceremony presentation content. Spearheading marketing and communications for the President's Inauguration Week, including development of the overall brand look and feel across all materials. Designed printed and digital invitations, created a pole banner design and campus-wide deployment plan for the East, West, and Southampton campuses, and developed a comprehensive Inauguration marketing toolkit to guide planning committee members.
- Title II / ADA Compliance Mandate: Leading communications and campus support for the ADA compliance mandate, including development of accessible web templates and ongoing campus-wide guidance, resources, and workshops for staff. Completed the refresh and accessibility upgrade of the first 40 pages of StonyBrook.edu, representing the university's most visible and high-traffic web pages.
- Purposeful Storytelling & Amplification Across PESO (Paid, Earned, Shared & Owned) Media: Coordinating with SUNY Research & Innovation on the launch of *Research Connect*, a public-facing website showcasing the expertise of Stony Brook University and Stony Brook Medicine faculty and researchers. The platform features more than 2,000 profiles highlighting publications, patents, grants, collaborations, and media citations; soft launch scheduled for January 26. Additional purposeful storytelling highlights include: Jazz Loft at Southampton; international academic programs in partnership with the Study Abroad Office; the Regional Student Affairs Senior Leadership Conference; SBU Eats' participation in SUNY Battle of the Chefs; the launch of the new Creative Writing, Film and Television website (formerly the Lichtenstein Center); Regeneron semifinalist mentors; Sharks to Seawolves; Graduate School collaboration to amplify promotion of the annual 3MT (Three-Minute Thesis) competition; and the Children's Hospital "Jersey Game."
- Brand Management & Internal Communications: Completed the Fall Enrollment digital marketing campaign and began development of the Spring strategy, including a peer-focused campaign designed to influence rankings. Launched an innovative Influencer PR Box initiative with a curated group of approximately 100 social media influencers whose audiences include students, alumni, and college counselors. Partnering with the editorial board to shape the table of contents for the next issue of the university Magazine. Convened the first 2026 Campus Beautification Committee executive board meeting, with plans to introduce student art projects across the East and West campuses. Continued the "Let's Talk Newsletters" series to drive consistency, alignment, and shared impact among communications staff producing SBU newsletters.

Research

Roll-out of Elsevier Pure Research Information Management System (RIMS) (Foundational Pillar: Catalyze)

Stony Brook University, in partnership with SUNY, is launching *Stony Brook Research Connect*, a new Research Information Management System that provides a centralized, publicly searchable platform to showcase faculty expertise and support collaboration. Announced to faculty on January 19, 2026, the system goes live on January 26, 2026 as part of the broader SUNY Research Connect initiative.

The platform automatically aggregates publication data from Scopus and grant information from the SUNY Research Foundation to generate comprehensive professional profiles. Across SUNY, the system highlights more than 6,500 researchers, including approximately 2,300 Stony Brook faculty, as well as shared research equipment across 26 campuses. Stony Brook faculty will have access to a custom branded instance that allows them to manage and refine their profiles, enhance research visibility, and track future additions such as patents and prior institutional awards. The next phase of implementation will focus on training to support profile updates and ongoing management.

Link to the Stony Brook Research Connect [here](#).

Link to the SUNY Research Connect [here](#).

Final Planning Stages for the SUNY AI Symposium at Stony Brook University

(Foundational Pillar: Build)

Final planning is underway for the SUNY AI Symposium, to be held at Stony Brook University on April 14–15, 2026. The two day event, titled *Scaling the NY AI Innovation Ecosystem*, is being organized by the Office for Research and Innovation in partnership with the AI Innovation Institute and SUNY System Administration, with guidance from a planning committee of faculty and staff across the university and medical center.

The symposium will address the rapid evolution of artificial intelligence, with a focus on fostering new partnerships and advancing innovation across the SUNY system and beyond. The agenda includes a poster session, *A Showcase of SUNY's Next Gen AI Talent*, held in honor of President Goldsmith's inauguration, as well as expert panels and talks on AI education and workforce development, applications in quantum science, national competitiveness, industry diffusion, and multiscale intelligence spanning ecological, human, and molecular systems.

For more information, click [here](#).

Quantum Research and Innovation Hub

(Foundational Pillar: Accelerate)

Stony Brook University has formally submitted to SUNY its strategic investment plan for the recently announced \$300M New York State award. The plan outlines a comprehensive roadmap for the design and construction of the Quantum Research and Innovation Hub, along with the statewide expansion of the New York State Quantum Internet Testbed (NYSQIT).

Currently the largest entangled quantum communications network in the world, the expanded testbed will connect Long Island to the rest of New York State, establishing a foundational quantum internet backbone and positioning the region at the global forefront of secure, high speed data transmission.

Innovation

Brook and Beyond

(Foundational Pillar: Accelerate)

This flagship accelerator program supports translational research and early stage innovation across campuses. In December 2025, Stony Brook University hosted the Brook and Beyond finals of its inaugural program, which attracted sixty four applications from teams across the East and West Campuses. Eight teams were selected as finalists, and four projects were ultimately awarded funding (\$50K per selected team). Projects are now underway, with active monitoring and tranche management planned over the next twelve months:

- Marie Badalamente (Orthopedics, RSOM): Drug development for osteoarthritis
- Dimitris Assanis (Mechanical Engineering, CEAS): Hydrogen extraction from air
- Vladimir Samuilov (Materials Science, CEAS): High voltage supercapacitors
- Thomas Varley (Clean Water Technology, SOMAS): Nitrate removal from septic systems

A new [Brook and Beyond](#) cycle was launched on January 23, 2026. Letters of Intent are due February 3, 2026, with a longer lead time introduced to further broaden participation. Down selection and training activities will begin in February 2026.

Workforce Training

(Foundational Pillar: Accelerate)

Workforce training efforts were strengthened through the award of a \$644K grant from the New York Power Authority. This funding supports the Power Pathways Workforce Readiness Program, which focuses on preparing the workforce for renewable and clean energy careers. The program serves both trade focused students, including high school and community college participants, and advanced energy students. Training areas include solar installation, grid surveillance using drones, and installation of high voltage direct current systems.

Additional workforce development initiatives were launched or continued including the second year of [Cyberlearn](#), which provides experiential cybersecurity training for professionals involved in electricity generation and distribution. The second year of the [Drone Piloting for Infrastructure program](#) enables high school students to earn Part 107 certification, supporting safer and more cost effective inspection of power infrastructure. The [High School Women in STEM program](#) continues for a second year, introducing female students to STEM pathways. In January, Innovation also launched the inaugural Energy Policy Briefing Project, pairing political science students with government affairs professionals for hands-on policy experience. Finally, a new round of [HVDC](#) training is underway in partnership with Suffolk County Community College, supported by specialized training facilities managed by Innovation in the AERTC building.

Stony Brook Startups Awarded Seed Funding Through the SUNY TAF Program (Foundational Pillar: Accelerate)

Two Stony Brook University projects were selected for support through the SUNY Technology Accelerator Fund (TAF). This highly competitive program awarded funding to only seven projects statewide and supports feasibility studies and prototyping for innovations with strong commercialization potential.

Awardees and Focus Areas

- Gurtej Singh (Surgery, RSOM): Development of DEVA, a vascularized, shelf stable skin substitute with significant potential for wound healing and future commercialization.
- Anurag Purwar (Mechanical Engineering, CEAS): Development of MotionGen, an AI based platform for automated design and synthesis of advanced robotic systems.

Conflict of Interest Management Plan and Guidance for SBU Startups (Foundational Pillar: Catalyze)

The Innovation team launched a best practice program to institute a conflict of interest management plan to inform and guide faculty startups and licensing. The details of this program will be rolled out on the [Intellectual Property Partners website](#) later in January.

Southampton Campus

- Campus Facilities: Asbestos abatement in the condemned dormitories is complete, clearing the way for demolition in the new year and removing long-standing blight from the campus. Improvements to the Fine Arts Building entrances are nearly complete, positioning the Fine Arts Building and Avram Theater as the campus's primary gateway. Landscaping of the historic main entrance is complete, with new signage in design, meaning all campus entrances will soon have received comprehensive upgrades.
- Academic Program Development: In collaboration with the School of Social Welfare, OLA of Eastern Long Island, and other partners, a bilingual and bicultural MSW pathway is in development to address regional workforce needs. A bilingual market survey and a January partner and donor convening will inform program design. Once launched, this would be the first new academic degree program in Southampton in more than ten years.
- SUNY AgriTech Initiative / Listening Tour: In January, the FoodLab hosted Carter Strickland, SUNY Chief Sustainability Officer, and Chris White, SUNY Vice Chancellor for Workforce Development and

Upward Mobility, for their listening tour in support of the SUNY AgriTech Initiative. The visit brought together Stony Brook faculty and students from across disciplines, as well as industry experts, for focused discussions on experiential learning, sustainability, and agricultural workforce development.

- **Workforce & Professional Programming:** The campus launched its first workforce development initiative through the Careers for Tomorrow series with the Office of Workforce & Economic Development, beginning with a drone-focused program that attracted nearly 300 participants. Based on strong interest, programming will expand next year to include FAA certification workshops, industry engagement, and additional cross-industry topics such as AI.
- **Community Engagement:** Community-facing programming continues in 2026 to build momentum through monthly events, including the Jazz Loft @ Southampton concert series, which has drawn strong year-round attendance. The Jazz Loft concerts will continue through December 2026, with additional events scheduled, including the 3rd Annual Hamptons Food & Wine Classic and the Selected Shorts live podcast over the summer.

Student Affairs

- New students (first years and transfers) participated in New Seawolf Welcome (NSW) from January 22 - January 24. NSW features a series of events that aim to get students acclimated to Stony Brook and introduces them to faculty, staff, and fellow students. Each student had a unique schedule of assigned workshops and "Choose Your Own Workshops" as well as fun evening programming.
- Student Affairs sent out a message to all faculty and staff at the beginning of the semester reminding them of student support resources such as the [Red Book](#), a comprehensive website with helpful information to guide faculty and staff on how to best help students in need.
- Student Affairs hosted the third annual Winterfest, from January 12-21, featuring workshops and lectures on various topics such as arts and crafts, AI and cloud computing, cooking lessons, and other useful skills, offered by more than 30 faculty, staff, students, and OLLI members for the entire campus community.
- Student Life is hosting two Involvement Fairs at the start of the spring semester to connect students with our 500+ student clubs and organizations. In addition, the Career Center will be hosting 4 Job and Internship Fairs this semester and the Center for Service Learning and Community Service will be hosting a Volunteer Fair on March 25 to connect students with opportunities to give back to the community.
- Many educational and cultural events are planned throughout February to celebrate Black History Month and recognize the culture and historical contributions of the Pan-African community. In addition, Diversity, Intercultural and Community Engagement (DICE) in collaboration with campus partners, will be hosting a Lunar New Year celebration on February 7, featuring cultural and fun activities for the campus community, including fireworks.

Events to highlight:

- Black History Month Opening Celebrations – Starting February 4
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/12000806>
- Lunar New Year Celebration – Feb 7
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/12054178>
- Siblings Weekend – Feb 14 and 15
https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/studentaffairs/familyservices/siblings_weekend.php
- Black History Month Spoken Word Open Mic Contest – Feb 19
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/12001973>
- Diversity Festival – Feb 26
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/11815674>