



Stony Brook
University

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MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Andrea Goldsmith, President
Date: November 3, 2025
SUBJECT: President's Report

Executive Summary

University News

- **Town Hall:** President Goldsmith held a town hall discussion on Tuesday, October 21 focused on shaping a shared vision for Stony Brook's future. A second town hall, to be held virtually, is scheduled for Monday, November 17.
- **Homecoming:** Stony Brook University's 2025 Homecoming was a success. From Investiture and Seawolves Showcase to the Homecoming football game, the weekend was filled with great events and meaningful traditions that highlighted all that makes the university community special.
- **Academic Momentum Campaign:** Stony Brook is participating in SUNY's newly launched multi-year Academic Momentum Campaign, aimed at improving the retention and completion rates of all SUNY undergraduate students. As part of this initiative, Stony Brook will set specific retention and completion goals for the Fall 2026 entering cohort.
- **SUNY-NY Creates:** Stony Brook is included in the new SUNY - NY Creates Technology Innovation Institute (TII) to bolster future semiconductor research and workforce development. Nearly \$4 million will be invested in the first two years to support faculty recruitment, student internships, and collaborative industry projects.



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State Government Relations Update

- **Speaker of the New York State Assembly:** Speaker Heastie returned to his alma mater during Stony Brook's recent Homecoming and delivered remarks at the annual Multicultural UNITI Brunch hosted by the Black and Latino Alumni Network.
- **DASNY Visit:** Last month, DASNY (Dormitory Authority of the State of New York) President and CEO Robert Rodriguez visited the Stony Brook campus to meet with members of the university's leadership team and tour several DASNY-backed projects. DASNY is providing financing and consultancy services on various student housing projects, a public-private housing development project on the Stony Brook campus, and additional advanced specialty care facilities for Stony Brook Medicine.
- **Campus Visit:** Stony Brook University Hospital welcomed leaders from Commack High School for a tour of hospital facilities and a discussion about encouraging high school students to consider career opportunities in healthcare.
- **Long Island Association:** President Goldsmith was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Long Island Association, the region's premier chamber of commerce.

Federal Government Relations Update

- **Government Shutdown:** The federal government shutdown continues, with government services temporarily suspended and around 1.4 million civilian federal employees on unpaid leave or working without pay. Despite mounting economic and social impacts, negotiations remain stalled.
- **H-1B Visas:** U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has clarified that the new \$100,000 fee applies to H-1B petitions filed on or after September 21, 2025, for individuals outside of the U.S. requesting consular or port-of-entry notification. Two lawsuits have been filed challenging the Presidential Proclamation, *Restriction on Entry of Certain Nonimmigrant Workers*. The university's Office of Global Affairs (OGA) remains the point of contact for any questions.
- **Big Picture:** Stony Brook's Office of Federal Relations continues to work on a daily basis with the New York congressional delegation, federal agencies, and national higher education and research association partners to stay informed and advocate for the university's federal priorities.

Advancement

- Since the start of this fiscal year on July 1, 2025, we have secured \$51.1 million in gifts and pledges, including 10 transformational gifts of \$1 million or more, and 67 major gifts of \$100,000 or more. This year's total includes **\$24.5 million** in endowment commitments.
- Since the New York State and Simons Infinity Investment matches were announced in FY23, we have raised a total of **\$140.9 million** in endowment support toward our \$200 million multi-year goal.
- Notable gifts closed since the last update include:
 - \$5 million to endow a research center within CEAS
 - \$2 million in current use funding for CEAS labs
 - \$2 million for the endowed chair in energy and the environment

- \$1.1 million planned gift for the College of Arts and Sciences
- \$1 million for the Pediatric Emergency Department expansion
- \$412,000 toward fellowships in mechanical engineering
- \$257,118 estate gift for Renaissance School of Medicine scholarships
- \$250,000 for the endowed chair in cardiology
- \$250,000 to support the Staller Center for the Arts
- \$250,000 for the Turkana Basin Institute

Athletics

- Football defeated Towson 27-19 in the annual Homecoming game on October 25 as graduate running back Roland Dempster set a school record with 40 carries for 181 yards. The team is now 15-4 in Homecoming games since 2006.
- Senior Linn Beck was named the CAA Women's Soccer Midfielder of the Year, earning the honor for the second straight season. Beck also earned a spot on the All-CAA First Team and was joined by three teammates that also received all-conference nods: Reilly Rich (First Team), Abigail Roche (Third Team & All-Rookie) and Sammy Hannwacker (First Team).
- As part of its continued partnership with SNY, Stony Brook Athletics announced a linear television agreement with SNY to air 20 basketball games during the 2025-26 season. SNY will air 10 Stony Brook men's basketball games and 10 women's basketball games this season.
- The men's team will also have two national television on CBS Sports Network.
- Men's Basketball opens its season on Monday, November 3 at Stony Brook Arena against Farmingdale State. Women's Basketball opens on Tuesday, November 4 at Syracuse before returning home on Friday, November 7 to take on Molloy.
- Men's and Women's Cross Country competed in the CAA Championships on Friday, October 31. The men's team was looking to win the conference title for the fourth straight year.

Human Resources

- Stony Brook ranked in the top 100 of America's Best-in-State Employers for 2025 by Forbes (in partnership with Marketing Research firm, Statista), one of just five universities in New York to earn the honor. Full story: <http://gosbu.co/46fRlfl>
- HR expanded its relationship with LinkedIn, including support to in-house recruiting, LinkedIn Learning, LinkedIn Life pages, and Stony Brook HR Happenings group page. The Talent Acquisition team's LinkedIn support to six executive hires (Director level and above) increased efficiency and saved \$150,000 in search firm fees. In the one-year period ending in September 2025, LinkedIn drove 504,000 job views, 29,000 apply clicks, and 308 hires.
- Stony Brook's Benefits and Wellness fair to support employees' annual benefits enrollment, hosted on October 7, featured 80 vendors, academic, and community groups supporting benefits and wellness at the university and received an estimated 600 participants.

- Healthier U, the university's wellness program, sponsored its annual WolfieDash road race on October 26, with a record number of 850 registrants and 525 finishers, including President Goldsmith.
- The Labor Relations team provided significant support to SUNY in negotiating the Graduate Student Employee Union collective bargaining agreement, recently concluded. The team continues to support negotiations between the Research Foundation and unionized Research Assistants.

Marketing and Communications

- SBU Special Projects: Supporting the Office of Equity and Access in achieving ADA compliance by April 2026, ensuring all digital content is accessible. Contributed to the Homecoming Committee through event marketing, advertising, signage, and t-shirt design. Coordinating development of the next issue of *Stony Brook Magazine*.
- Paid Advertising: Partnering with Enrollment Management to execute a Fall digital media strategy aligning enrollment trends with institutional goals. Running Free App Week ads (Oct 20–31) across Meta, Paid Search, and YouTube Shorts to drive early-action applications and boost regional brand awareness. Partnering with Stony Brook Athletics on the rollout of a digital advertising and radio campaigns (Oct 16–Dec 21) promoting group ticket offers to local families, supported by a new conversion-focused landing page.
- Strategic Communications: Collaborating with Wendy Pearson to position Stony Brook Southampton as a hub for academics, research, arts, and community engagement, advancing the “Manhattan to Montauk” vision. Delivered Phase I of the website refresh (launched Oct 1), driving a 111% increase in traffic; introduced Phase II on Oct 17 to enable units to manage Academic and Campus Life content. Partnering with the Office of Research and Innovation and SUNY RF to elevate visibility of Stony Brook’s research, innovation, and industry partnerships.
- Creative Design and Strategy: Developed the branded identity and digital materials for the Presidential Inauguration, including Save the Date evites and the event website. Finalized design assets for the Stony Awards, with presentation deck and social graphics in final production. Produced and edited 10 honoree videos for Investiture events, enhancing storytelling and event experience.

Research and Innovation

SBU recently hosted an Honors College Innovation Challenge

- INNOVATE: Honors Edition brought together top Stony Brook undergraduate students from the Honors College, University Scholars, and WISE for a full-day innovation challenge.
- Students engaged in design thinking, collaborative problem-solving, and rapid prototyping to address campus and local community issues.
- 10 interdisciplinary student teams developed and pitched solutions on topics including sustainability, healthcare accessibility, campus convenience, and wildlife conservation.

- The event culminated in formal pitches to a panel of university innovation and academic leaders, with awards for Most Innovative, Best Presentation, and Best Impact.
- Student Project Highlights
 - Sustainable Offshore Wind Blade Repurposing: Students proposed converting decommissioned wind turbine blades into public shade structures and park seating, engaging local artists and schools.
 - Wildlife Conservation & Safety: A team proposed creating designated deer conservation parks to reduce road accidents, support research, and provide community education spaces.
 - Innovation Matchmaking App: Inspired by on-campus IP work, a team developed a concept for a dating-style app connecting inventors and companies to support patent commercialization.

SBU's signature innovation challenge "Brook & Beyond" Faculty Cohort prepares for pitch challenge December 5th.

- This cohort is developing practical, high-impact solutions across clean energy, healthcare, and sustainability — all focused on affordability, deployment, and real-world use.
- Clean Energy: New technologies to generate hydrogen more efficiently, connect renewables directly to electrolyzers, and store energy safely at high density.
- Healthcare: Low-cost monitoring, longer-lasting pain relief, and better bedside brain recovery assessment to improve global patient outcomes. AI-driven gait analysis tools to advance neuroscience research
- Environmental & Research Innovation: septic retrofits that cut nitrogen pollution and protect waterways

Strategic Initiatives and Southampton Campus

- Southampton Facilities – For the first time, the Southampton campus is fully integrated into the University's Facilities Master Plan. Asbestos abatement is underway in the condemned dormitories in preparation for long-awaited demolition. The \$25 million renovation of laboratory space for SoMAS, including Chris Gobler's research labs, is currently in the design phase. Campus beautification projects continue, including new irrigation and landscaping at the former Montauk Avenue entrance, with updated signage now in planning. A significant increase in the campus' base facilities budget will ensure these projects move forward and continue to enhance the campus environment.
- Southampton Personnel – On-site leadership has been strengthened with the appointment of a new Associate Director of Southampton to support the Executive Director, a Director of Facilities and an Associate Director of Facilities, and a new Associate Director of Student Life to enrich the student experience. In partnership with the Dean of Students, the Executive Director is also forming a Student Advisory Committee to provide input on how best to improve student life in Southampton.

- Southampton Academic Programs – The campus is broadening its academic portfolio with several new initiatives: a bilingual/bicultural MSW program in development; an Early College Initiative in partnership with Suffolk County Community College; annual youth summer programs, including the Dream, Speak, Live camp for children who stutter; and the FoodLab's first credit-bearing course, launching this fall in collaboration with SoMAS.

Southampton Community Engagement – The campus welcomed thousands of visitors through a vibrant slate of programming. Highlights included the reopening of the Avram Theater; the launch of the Jazz Loft @ Southampton concert series, continuing through the fall; the annual Hamptons Food & Wine Festival in July; NPR's Selected Shorts live podcast celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Southampton Writers Conference; a public conversation with Joy Reid (former MSNBC host); and the FoodLab's Taste of the Trades program, introducing underserved youth to sustainable farming. We were especially honored to host Oceans of Hope, welcoming His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew, the Green Patriarch, to the Southampton campus.

Student Affairs

- Stony Brook celebrated Homecoming with a wide variety of activities that engaged the campus community as a whole during the week of October 20:
 - Homecoming Harvest featured fall traditions, a pumpkin patch, a Harvest Market, and more.
 - Home Sweet Homecoming invited the campus community to enjoy fall treats, games and giveaways in a festive environment.
 - On Friday, October 24, Seawolves Showcase featured performance student groups that lit up the stage with pure talent. The Center for Prevention and Outreach also hosted its annual Soberfest, an event which engages the campus community in the homecoming spirit and teaches Seawolves how to stay safe. The event featured fun activities such as crafts decorating, outdoor games and activities, and educational resources about the use of alcohol and other drugs.
- The Center for Prevention and Outreach also hosted its annual Take a Stand/ Walk with Me march on October 29 to raise awareness for domestic and relationship violence. In addition, they presented a robust and month-long educational program to support our campus community and provide a safe space for students.
- The Center for Civic Justice has hosted an array of events supporting civic engagement and educational support around the upcoming local election taking place on November 4, including National Voter Education Week and Vote Early Day.
- The Division of Student Affairs will be hosting the inaugural Regional Student Affairs Senior Leadership Conference, welcoming attendance of 77 student affairs leaders from 20 institutions from the Metro NY and Long Island region.
- The Career Center hosted 6 Job and Internship Fairs and recruitment events this September and October, which featured the participation of over 2,900 students and over 230 employers. This year's Emerging Talent Networking Dinner, hosted by the

Career Center, had over 200 attendees. This event is designed to connect students with professionals from a range of industries who are eager to connect with Stony Brook's emerging talent.

Events to highlight:

- Light the Brook: Monday, November 3 at 4:30pm
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/11821731>
- Veterans Day Ceremony: Wednesday, November 12 at 12:30pm
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/11804896>
- Community Dialogue: Grassroots Movements and Local Change: Wednesday, November 19 at 6:30pm
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/11542555>