

MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate

FROM: Maurie McInnis, President

DATE: February 7, 2022

SUBJECT: President's Report

- **UNIVERSITY NEWS AND ACCOLADES**

GOVERNOR HOCHUL PROPOSES STONY BROOK AND BUFFALO BE OFFICIALLY DESIGNATED AS THE TWO FLAGSHIPS OF THE SUNY SYSTEM

The Governor has proposed that Stony Brook University and the University at Buffalo be officially designated as the two flagships of the SUNY System. This designation would recognize our University's essential role in driving research, clinical care, employment, and socioeconomic mobility across the State—four things that are central to our University's identity. We are grateful that Governor Hochul shares both our ambition and our mission to continue to build a world-class research institution in which diversity, equity, inclusion, and access are integral priorities. In making the flagship designation, she noted that this will help each institution work to meet a goal of \$1 billion in federal research funding by 2030. Governor Hochul's proposal also calls for flexibility in how we are regulated and recommends funding to attract world class faculty and researchers to the SUNY System.

GOVERNOR HOCHUL VISITS BNL's NEW LABORATORY FOR BIOMOLECULAR STRUCTURE

New York State Governor Kathy Hochul visited Brookhaven National Laboratory (BNL) on January 21 and toured its new Laboratory for BioMolecular Structure (LBMS), which has conducted game-changing research to overcome the COVID pandemic. BNL's National Synchrotron Light Source II supports the work of more than 100 research groups and 200 Stony Brook faculty and students, who conduct world-class research in partnership with BNL scientists. LBMS is attached to the National Synchrotron Light Source II and was funded with \$15 million from Empire State Development.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY SELECTED AS FINALIST FOR HISTORIC GOVERNORS ISLAND CENTER FOR CLIMATE SOLUTIONS

Stony Brook University has been named a finalist for the historic Governors Island Center for Climate Solutions. Stony Brook is under consideration by the City of New York and the Trust for Governors Island to become the anchor institution that will reimagine Governors Island, creating a global hub for climate science research and innovation.

If selected from among three other finalists, Stony Brook will build the New York Climate Exchange — an ambitious new marketplace for investment and collaboration around solving the climate crisis. Featuring an innovative campus dedicated to sustainability and climate

justice, the Exchange will generate transformative environmental, economic, technical, and social solutions without leaving any community behind.

STRATEGIC BUDGET INITIATIVE UPDATE:

RESEARCH & INNOVATION RECOMMENDATIONS:

- We are in the midst of hiring 6 new positions in OVPR to increase support for faculty from proposal development through grants management.
- Launched a new strategic research group this past fall by convening the associate deans of research in the colleges/school to strengthen our ability to share ideas and opportunities to enhance research at Stony Brook.
- Established a new role, Vice Provost for Research and Infrastructure (Alfredo Fontanini), to support the research and space needs in preparation for expanding our research capabilities.
- Conducting bid process to begin a research space assessment this spring.
- Expanded support for research in the Creative Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CASSH)
- Established new Revise and Resubmit Seed Grant Program
- Enhancing support for postdoc and early career Ph.D. graduates through new hire
- Launched ten initial Tiger Teams focused on the priority research and technology areas to be overseen by the new NSF Directorate as identified in the USICA bill passed by the US Senate. These teams have completed final reports that are currently under review.
- Launched new grant opportunities for pre-proposal and successful teams. Several teams have already formed to respond to funding opportunity announcements.
- Planning underway for the second set of Tiger Teams, which will be focused on biomedical topics that would target NIH and related funding sources.

ACADEMIC PORTFOLIO RECOMMENDATIONS:

- Work is being done to implement a new graduate tuition revenue share program in an effort to create a simple, more transparent approach while also incentivizing enrollment goals and objectives across the University.
- We will be sunsetting the legacy graduate tuition share program immediately, including forgiveness of net negative tuition share amounts in most cases.
- The new program is being implemented this academic year with the first year of tuition revenue share to be distributed in July based on the current graduate enrollment.

PROJECT REACH STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE

All members of our community will have a role to play in this process as we begin to plan for what Stony Brook can be in the next decade. There are five organizing principles on which our success must be anchored:

- Providing the highest quality educational experience to foster success and achievement for every student
- Developing pioneering breakthroughs in research and medicine
- Forging new pathways to social and economic equity
- Bringing accessible, innovative, and state of the art healthcare to our community
- Creating inclusive economic development through the power of partnership

We have received 130 applications in response to my call for nominations to serve on the Visioning Committee. After a blind review, last week we invited 20 faculty, staff and students to join the committee, and their work will begin in mid-February. Additionally, the Senior

Leadership Team kicked-off their work with meetings in January by studying the big questions we need to explore as well as looking at our historical data as compared to our AAU public peers. There will be many opportunities to engage in the process, and we will keep the campus community informed as this process moves forward.

ARTHUR H. LEE APPOINTED PRESIDENT OF SUNY KOREA

Arthur H. Lee was appointed President of SUNY Korea, LLC, effective January 1, 2022. Lee will be responsible for supporting and strengthening the university's work to foster leaders who are able to resolve global challenges. Lee will also actively collaborate with faculty, staff, and students of the participating campuses in New York, including Stony Brook University and the Fashion Institute of Technology, and will be responsible for maintaining constructive relationships with the Korean National Government and Ministries, Incheon City Government, and the Incheon Free Economic Zone Authority.

REMEMBERING PALEOANTHROPOLOGIST RICHARD LEAKEY, CHAIR OF TURKANA BASIN INSTITUTE

World-renowned paleoanthropologist and conservationist Richard E. Leakey, a professor in the Stony Brook University Department of Anthropology in the College of Arts and Sciences and chair of the Turkana Basin Institute (TBI), died January 2 at the age of 77. Dr. Leakey devoted the majority of his life to research on human origins, conservation of wildlife and public service, and his archeological discoveries helped prove how humankind evolved in Africa. He was a visionary dedicated to the understanding of the origins of humans and the conservation of wildlife. His groundbreaking discoveries and his establishment of the Turkana Basin Institute have given us innumerable insights into the origins and evolution of humanity. We have lost a transformational scholar — a man who changed the way we think about ourselves. Stony Brook was honored to be his academic home.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY ACCEPTS INVITATION TO JOIN COLONIAL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

After two decades of excellence on and off the field in the America East Conference, Stony Brook University has accepted an invitation to join the Colonial Athletic Association (CAA) as a full-time member, elevating the university's profile and enhancing the student-athlete experience. All 18 Stony Brook athletic programs will compete in the CAA, marking the first time in the university's Division I era that every sport will be a member of the same conference.

U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT NAMES STONY BROOK ONLINE MASTER'S NURSING PROGRAM TO TOP 10 BEST LIST

For the third year in a row, the [Stony Brook University School of Nursing's](#) Online Master's Program was ranked in the top 10 schools nationwide by the *U.S. News and World Report* in its [2022 Best Online Programs](#) rankings. The Stony Brook program is ranked 8th, up a notch from 9th last year. The School also was ranked 13th for Nursing Administration, which is a significant distinction because the Stony Brook MS Program in Nursing Leadership prepares nurses as leaders to assume leadership positions across all levels of nursing. The School of Nursing has offered online education since 1994.

THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH TECHNOLOGY AND MANAGEMENT IS NOW THE SCHOOL OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS

The School of Health Technology and Management has been renamed the School of Health Professions. This name change better aligns programs, mission, vision, and goals, and

accurately reflects the offerings and opportunities available to students who are seeking programs to study health professions.

- **INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES**

ESTHER TAKEUCHI RECEIVES 2022 NAS AWARD IN CHEMICAL SCIENCES

Esther S. Takeuchi, PhD, Distinguished Professor and the William and Jane Knapp Chair at Stony Brook University, is being honored in May by the National Academy of Sciences and will receive the Award in Chemical Sciences. This award is in recognition of her breakthrough contributions in the understanding of electrochemical energy storage.

SBU FACULTY NAMED 2021 FELLOWS OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE (AAAS)

Abhay Deshpande, a nuclear physics expert and professor at Stony Brook since 2004, who also holds a joint appointment at the U.S. Department of Energy's Brookhaven National Laboratory as Director of Electron-Collider Ion Science, was named a Fellow by the AAAS, "For key contributions to the determination of the spin composition of the nucleon, and for leadership in the development of the science program of the Electron Ion Collider." Throughout his career, Deshpande has served both the U.S. and international scientific communities. In earlier work as a key member of the ZEUS Collaboration at the Deutsches Elektronen-Synchrotron (DESY) in Germany and the Spin Muon Collaboration at CERN, the European particle physics laboratory, he made crucially important contributions to measurements of nucleon structure functions and to determining quarks' contribution to nucleon spin.

Alan Alda is a visiting professor at the Alda Center for Communicating Science. An actor, director, author and activist, Alda is a seven-time Emmy Award-winner and Academy Award nominee whose many films and television programs include *M*A*S*H** and *The West Wing*. His life-long interest in science led him to host *Scientific American Frontiers* on PBS and ultimately led to the creation of the Alda Center that applies improvisational exercises, combined with communication strategies and social science and has had a notable effect on how scientists communicate.

DOE FUNDING FOR ELECTRIC VEHICLE BATTERY RESEARCH

Brookhaven National Laboratory has received funding from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) for "Battery500 Phase 2," which involves research aimed at understanding and improving materials for electric vehicle (EV) batteries. Led by DOE's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a team of scientists that includes **Peter Khalifah**, a professor in the Department of Chemistry who holds a joint appointment at BNL, will conduct studies to identify battery electrode materials with increased energy density. The total budget of Battery500 Phase 2 is \$75 million for the next five years. It is a renewal of funding for the original Battery500 Consortium, which was established in 2016.

PICKERING FOREIGN AFFAIRS FELLOWSHIP

Stony Brook alumna **Emily Carll '20**, who majored in political science and Asian and Asian-American studies, has been selected for the nationally competitive [Thomas R. Pickering Foreign Affairs Program Fellowship](#). Carll will become SBU's first-ever Pickering Fellow and receive \$84,000 to pursue a master's degree in the field of international affairs.

LONNIE WOLLMUTH RECEIVES 2021 LUPUS INNOVATION AWARD

Lonnie Wollmuth, professor in the Department of Neurobiology and Behavior, was named a recipient of the 2021 Lupus Innovation Award by the Lupus Research Alliance. The award offers up to \$150,000 per year for up to two years.

SCOTT A. SMOLKA NAMED AN ASSOCIATION FOR COMPUTING MACHINERY FELLOW

Distinguished Professor of Computer Science Scott A. Smolka was recently elected a 2021 [Fellow of the Association for Computing Machinery](#). Professor Smolka's contribution spans a number of computing fields including process algebra, model checking and runtime verification.

HISTORY PhD STUDENT ERIN A. CHÁVEZ SELECTED FOR COLD WAR ARCHIVES RESEARCH INSTITUTE FELLOWSHIP

Erin A. Chávez, a doctoral student in the Department of History at Stony Brook University, has been chosen as a 2021-2022 Cold War Archives Research Institute Fellow. She is one of only 16 fellows selected nationwide.

- **GRADUATION AND RETENTION RATES**

Graduation rates hit record high levels. The 4-year graduation rate rose to 66% and the 6-year graduation rate rose to 78%. Unlike many other universities, there are no equity gaps for Pell recipients.

- **SPRING 2022 ENROLLMENT**

Enrollment is lower this spring by about 700 students reflecting:

- A decrease in new and continuing undergraduate students
- About one hundred fewer non-matriculated graduate students
- About 200 fewer nursing students

- **FINANCE & FACILITIES UPDATE**

- Stony Brook's new multi-disciplinary Engineering Building was part of both the Governor's "State of the State" and FY22/23 Executive Budget. We expect a late-Spring award for a design team.
- The Governor's Executive Budget also calls for new investments in both operating and capital funding for SUNY.

ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Since the start of the 2022 fiscal year, \$29.2 million has been generously pledged or contributed by more than 6,600 donors. Their investments in our students, research, healthcare and campus programs provide critical support, helping to elevate the University.

Generous contributions since the last update include:

- \$340,254 pledge toward the Mother Cabrini Health Foundation Strategic Grant for the Mobile Dental Van project
- \$129,024 pledge toward the research of Dr. David Gu in the fields of Computer Vision & Virtual Realty
- \$120,000 pledge to establish a graduate scholarship in the Department of Music
- \$105,875 pledge toward clinical research and faculty support for bipolar disorder
- \$100,000 gift toward the Ricotta Endowed Professorship in Vascular Surgery

- \$100,000 gift to the Gilbert and Janet Hanson Geosciences Endowment Fund
- \$100,000 grant for the Children's Pediatric Cancer Program
- \$100,000 pledge toward the Shalini Devi Gujavarty Memorial Endowed Scholarship
- \$100,000 gift for the Staller Center for the Arts
- \$80,000 pledge toward the Andrew and Merrill Silver Scholarship Fund
- \$65,000 grant for the Frances Velay Women's Science Research Fellowship Program

- **UPCOMING EVENTS**

The 2022 Staller Gala will be held on March 12. World-renowned musicians Emanuel Ax, Leonidas Kavakos, and Yo-Yo Ma will unite to perform an evening of Beethoven trios.

Michelle Mbekeani, a 2011 alumni and policy advisor at the Cook County State's Attorney's Office in Chicago, will be the keynote speaker for the Black History Month [closing program](#) on February 24.

- **RECENT EVENTS**

- **December Commencement**

Nearly 1700 graduates celebrated at the University's 24th annual December commencement ceremony, joining more than 200,000 Stony Brook alumni around the world.

- **New Student Convocation**

We hosted four separate welcomes as part of the new students' orientation day on Friday, January 21. About 600 transfers and 80 new first year students in total were in attendance.

- **Stony Brook Hosts Campus Active Shooter Integrated Response Course**

As part of Stony Brook's continued commitment to enhance safety measures and create a campus that is as safe as possible, the university hosted a "Campus Active Shooter Integrated Response" course last month. The course was developed and conducted by the Louisiana State University National Center for Biomedical Research and Training (NCBRT) Academy of Counter-Terrorist Education. NCBRT is a nationally recognized center for emergency preparedness and response training located at Louisiana State University's campus in Baton Rouge. The course given at Stony Brook was the organization's first official on-campus offering in the United States.

- **Black History Month Opening Ceremony**

An opening ceremony for Black History Month was held on February 2, with keynote speaker [Franck D. Joseph II, '12](#), Chief of Staff & Senior Advisor for the Office of the Queens Borough President. Mr. Joseph is a Stony Brook University Alumnus with a B.A. in Political Science. The programmatic theme this year, *SANKOFA! Social Activism* is designed to increase awareness about the historical legacy of the African American/Black experience in the struggle for equality, inclusion and social change.

- **ATHLETICS UPDATE¹**

- Stony Brook student-athletes finished the fall semester with a 3.14 cumulative GPA. Women's Tennis led the department with a 3.7 GPA. Of Stony Brook's 462 student-athletes, 159 earned a 3.5 GPA or higher.

¹ As of February 1, 2022

- Women's Basketball has won eight straight games and has a record of 17-2 heading into February. The team leads the America East with a conference record of 8-1.
- Men's Basketball is in second place in the America East with a 5-2 conference record. The team is 12-7 overall and has won three straight road games. Head coach Geno Ford earned his 200th career win on Dec. 14.
- Women's Lacrosse is ranked as the preseason No. 5 team in the country according to USA Lacrosse Magazine. The team opens the 2022 season on Feb. 20 at No. 3 Syracuse.
- Men's Lacrosse opens the 2022 season on Feb. 12 at home against Fairfield. The team was picked to finish second in the America East preseason poll.