



**Stony Brook
University**

THE STATE UNIVERSITY
OF NEW YORK

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

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MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Andrea Goldsmith, President
Date: December 1, 2025
SUBJECT: President's Report

Executive Summary

University News

- Virtual Town Hall: President Goldsmith held a second town hall discussion on Monday, November 17, focused on shaping a shared vision for Stony Brook's future. The virtual session included nearly 200 participants. Opportunities for engagement will continue throughout the spring. Updates will be shared on the president's website: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/pres/vision/plan.php>
- First 100 Days: President Goldsmith celebrated her 100th day as Stony Brook's seventh president. Across hundreds of meetings, events, and chance encounters during this time, the university's excellence in education, research, clinical care, and service was evident as was the dedication of the university's amazing faculty, students, alumni, staff, supporters, and community partners.
- SUNY Research Council Meeting: Stony Brook University played a leading role in this year's annual State University of New York Research Council meeting with Lav Varshney, director of the Stony Brook AI Innovation Institute, delivering the keynote address. The two-day forum exploring how strategic collaboration drives innovation and economic growth brought together universities, industry leaders, and government partners from across New York State.

State Government Relations Update

- Fire District Legislation: The Governor signed legislation that will enable Stony Brook University Enterprise Risk Management to contract for goods and services with local fire departments. With this, Stony Brook will have secured approval of all three of its priority bills this legislative term.
- East End Legislative Breakfast: On December 19, Stony Brook will hold its first legislative breakfast with government officials across the East End on the Southampton Campus.
- Trees Along Nicolls Road: Newly planted trees along Nicolls Road are the result of a grant the university received from former Assemblymember and current Suffolk County Legislator Steve Englebright.

Federal Government Relations Update

- Temporary Funding Bill: President Trump signed a continuing resolution on November 12, ending the

historic shutdown and funding the government through January 30, 2026. It does not extend Affordable Care Act subsidies. Congress now has until the January 30 deadline to complete the nine remaining FY2026 funding bills, with unresolved bills likely headed to a full-year continuing resolution.

- U.S. Department of Education: The U.S. Department of Education transferred responsibilities for administration of a number of grant programs to four other federal agencies. Under the interagency agreements, the U.S. Department of Labor will administer most grant programs previously under the Office of Postsecondary Education.
- Genesis Mission: On November 24, the Department of Energy launched the Genesis Mission, a national effort to accelerate the application of AI for transformative scientific discovery focused on pressing national challenges. Under Secretary for Science Darío Gil will lead the initiative. The Genesis Mission will mobilize the National Laboratories, industry, and academia to build an integrated discovery platform that will connect the world's best supercomputers, AI systems, and next-generation quantum systems with the most advanced scientific instruments in the nation.

Academic Affairs

Stony Brook hosts SUNY international education group - For the first time, Stony Brook University hosted the fall meeting of the SUNY Council on International Education on campus. Dozens of international education leaders from across the 64-campus system attended in person, and many more joined the conversation virtually. The meeting was organized by the Office of Global Affairs' International Academic Programs team.

Program for at-risk students wins national award - Stony Brook University recently was one of three institutions in the country to win an [Innovative Institution Award](#) from EAB Strategic Advisory Services for a program to support at-risk freshmen. The Sophomore Academic Resilience Program offered students ending their first year at Stony Brook with GPAs at or below 1.5 a lifeline and a significant boost to their academic careers. Over five weeks in the summer, students earned academic credit, tutoring, and academic skill-building workshops for free to help them continue to progress toward their degrees.

Provost's Student Advisory Board established - Twenty-five students, from across undergraduate programs and class years, were selected as the inaugural members of the newly formed Provost's Student Advisory Board this fall. The board will help to inform and guide policy and decision making about academic affairs. This year, students have chosen to focus on issues related to hands-on learning inside and outside of the classroom, among other concerns.

Leadership Changes

- Stephanie Kelton, professor of economics and public policy, was named interim dean of the School of Communication and Journalism at the start of the fall semester
- Gabrielle Russo, associate professor of anthropology, was named interim director of Stony Brook's Turkana Basin Institute in October

Advancement

Since the fiscal year began on July 1, 2025, the historic momentum from the NY State and Simons Infinity Investment endowment matches — has continued to be a key driver of our success.

Year-to-Date Highlights (five months in):

- We have secured \$61 million in gifts and pledges for all purposes, which includes \$26.9 million in endowment commitments.
- We have received 82 major gifts of \$100,000 or more, including 21 gifts of \$500,000 or more, and 12 gifts of \$1 million or more.
- The number of alumni making gifts to Stony Brook has increased by 26.9% over last year.
- Homecoming activities drove a 15% year-over-year increase in attendance.

Since the announcement of the New York State and Simons Infinity Investment matches in FY23, we have raised a total of \$143.3 million in endowment support toward our \$200 million multi-year goal.

Notable gifts closed since the last update include:

- \$5,007,480 planned gift for the College of Business
- \$700,000 for the Department of Hispanic Languages and Literature
- \$569,450 for the Department of Italian Studies
- \$258,000 to advance medical knowledge and patient care
- \$150,000 to provide scholarships for first generation students
- \$129,360 for Stony Brook Children's Hospital research
- \$100,000 to study global food-related issues and climate change at the FoodLab
- \$100,000 to support scholarships in the College of Arts and Sciences

Athletics

- Football defeated Bryant 35-28 in the final game of the regular season, giving the team 14 wins over the last two seasons. Freshman quarterback Quinn Boyd earned his second CAA Rookie of the Week honor after passing for 298 yards and two touchdowns, including the game-winning score with 51 seconds left.
- 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). Women's Soccer advanced to the CAA championship game for the second straight year.
- 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 Soccer advanced to the CAA championship game for the first time in program history after defeating 18th-ranked Hofstra 2-1 in the semifinals.
- Women's Basketball defeated Rutgers 71-54 on November 9 to earn the program's third-ever win over a Big Ten school.

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: Continued support for the Office of Equity and Access to achieve ADA compliance by April 2026 while managing key MARCOM deliverables. Recent work includes the brand development for President Goldsmith's Inauguration (invitation and website), production of the President's holiday card and video message, and development of the Strategic Plan website to strengthen community engagement.
- Paid Advertising: Supported Athletics with execution of the Sports NY partnership, including video features and commentary during live broadcasts, most recently during the November 8 basketball game. Additional efforts include recommending researchers tied to upcoming video content with updated SCALA-based fact slides. Other paid advertising includes management of Meta campaigns for Back the Brook and the Jazz Loft Strictly Sinatra event.
- Strategic Communications: Supporting the advancement of the Southampton Strategic Plan with a refreshed website launched November 4, featuring a new hero video, updated content hubs, and a welcome message from Wendy Pearson. Provided counsel for an upcoming *Newsday* story on Southampton revitalization and promoted SBU's research leadership through the SUNY Research Leadership Academy and @SUNYResearch social channels.
- Editorial Services: Prepared the next issue of *Stony Brook Magazine* for mailing on December 3 and finalized the digital edition. Continued the "Let's Talk Newsletters" workshops to enhance collaboration, consistency, and strategic alignment across more than 20 campus newsletters.

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

- Student Life Health Sciences opened its new suite on East Campus with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on November 17, 2025, bringing together Student Life, the Career Center, and Health, Wellness and Prevention Services to provide career development, mental health and wellness support, and student engagement resources; this collaborative hub represents an expansion of services for Health Sciences students.
- The Division of Student Affairs hosted the inaugural Regional Student Affairs Senior Leadership Conference, welcoming 45 student affairs leaders from 20 institutions from the Metro NY and Long Island region.
- The Office of Military and Veteran Student Services hosted its annual Veterans Day Ceremony on November 12th, honoring and celebrating the service and sacrifices of veterans within the campus community.
- The First Generation Committee brought National First Generation Week to the SBU campus by providing a series of events aimed at empowering first-generation students from November 3rd through the 8th. Highlights included a panel brunch, networking opportunities and career workshops, all designed to support and celebrate this vital part of the campus community.
- Light the Brook, organized by USG and Student Engagement and Activities, brought the campus together for the annual Festival of Lights on the Academic Mall on November 3rd.
- Events:
 - New Seawolf Welcome: Thursday, January 22 through Saturday, January 24, 2026: <https://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/orientation/NewSeawolfWelcomeWeek/index.php>
 - Spring Involvement Fairs: Wednesday, January 28 and Monday, February 2, 2026: <https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/11856089> <https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/11856009>