In the College of Arts and Sciences at Stony Brook University, we are passionately committed to innovation, critical analysis, and creativity. Our imaginations lift us far beyond what we know today to ask questions about what might be.

We’re united by a wonder at the world around us, at human nature and culture that populates that world, and at the beauty and symmetry that describe it in mathematics, scientific laws, music, culture, and art. Our ideas have a far reaching impact on society.

All members of the College of Arts and Sciences community, students and faculty alike, drive this process of discovery and creativity. Through inquiry and research-based education, our students are discovering the lessons of history, solving new equations, analyzing cultural connections, and creating new molecules in the lab. Through discovery, they transform themselves into the next generation of entrepreneurs, leaders and agents of change. Through mentorship and community, we support them on a journey far beyond where they’d imagined they could be.
STRENGTHS

The College of Arts and Sciences is the largest college at Stony Brook University, with more than 12,000 undergraduate and graduate students, 600 tenure and non-tenure track faculty members, and 200 staff.

Our centers for research and education have strong partnerships with Brookhaven National Laboratory, Cold Spring Harbor, and local schools. We host world leading literary journals, sponsor interdisciplinary research on the brain, develop innovative particle accelerators, and appear on performance stages worldwide. We bring scholars and students together in interdisciplinary collaborations and centers such as our Humanities Institute. Many departments are ranked nationally.

Our faculty are winners of prestigious Guggenheim Fellowships, MacArthur Foundation Fellowships, and are members of the National Academy of Sciences or the American Association for the Advancement of Science. Grants and contracts from the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and others amount to nearly $50 million in external funding.

Located near New York City, a world center for economic development, international relations, technological innovation, healthcare, and the arts, the College of Arts and Sciences can positively impact both academic and civic life on Long Island and beyond. Students and faculty have the unique opportunity to collaborate with the New York community to change our understanding of the world.

Faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences are leaders in their disciplines, recognized for excellence in scholarship and creative work. Clockwise, from top: Joanna Kiryluk, recipient of 2016 National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER award for her work on cosmic neutrinos; Dr. Lorna Role, fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, who with Lin Jiang and David Talmage studies tuning the strength of memories; Music professor Matthew Barnson and English professor Rowan Ricardo Phillips, recognized as 2015 Guggenheim Fellows.
As part of a great research university, the College of Arts and Sciences incubates creative work and scholarship in fundamental disciplines, connecting with medicine, technology, public policy, culture, education, the arts, business, and the environment. As the liberal arts college for the campus, we help students and faculty explore diverse possibilities that exceed their initial expectations and prepare for a lifetime of discovery and civic participation. The College fulfills Stony Brook’s mission as a public university, supporting public dialog and policy far beyond the academy.

CHALLENGES

We are poised to creatively respond to the challenges presented by shifting funding models for teaching and scholarship. We face limited classroom and research space, and must become as efficient as possible with our resources. We must do our part to bridge the gap in access to high quality higher education and meet today’s demands.

We are proud of our opportunity to train a diverse student body, and are committed to ensuring their success. It is imperative that the College’s community reflects the diversity of this state and nation. We must broaden our reach in educating and preparing the next generation of innovators, scholars, and leaders.
OUR FUTURE

The future of the state and the nation depends on public universities such as Stony Brook, where affordable access to higher education attracts students from this region and empowers them to become tomorrow’s leaders.

The goal of this strategic plan is to create that future: to be among the very best public universities nationwide, remain a vital part of the New York community and economy, and serve as the intellectual and creative core of the university.

This plan represents the collective ideas and wisdom of the entire College community. It’s an invitation for each of us to play a role in shaping the future.

• Faculty: ways to use their creativity and mentorship to enrich our community
• Students: ways to explore ideas and passions far beyond their imagination
• Alumni and surrounding community: an invitation to partner with and support Stony Brook’s drive for excellence and impactful community service.

We call upon this community to join with us to achieve the goals of this plan as we implement our methods for success.

The college is great today, but will be better in the future as we continue investing in:

• A thriving, diverse community of students, faculty and staff
• Scholarship, research, and creative arts within and across our disciplines that transform our view of the world and positively impact society
• A commitment to access to higher education
• Students, faculty and staff who reflect the diverse populations of our nation and serve as positive role models for future generations
• Unique partnerships with our community that strengthen our position in the great state of New York and the world

In short, the College of Arts and Sciences will be one of the best intellectual centers nationwide.

Members of the SBU football team in Prof. Melissa Pendergast-Scriven’s American Sign Language (ASL) class welcome students from Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf.

Dept. of Biochemistry and Cell Biology Professor Steven Glynn teaches high school students “How to Fold a Protein” during a class for the College of Arts and Sciences Pre-College Institute.
Dept. of Ecology and Evolution professor Heather Lynch’s research is focused on spatial population dynamics of Antarctic penguins.

GOAL 1

The College of Arts and Sciences will strengthen our role as a center of curiosity-driven research, scholarship and creative work that enhances the human condition, building on our location in NY and our nearby partners on and off campus.
Faculty and students are drawn to the dynamic community of innovators and the creation of new ideas. The College leverages our unique landscape in Long Island, New York, and assets of the university community, such as Brookhaven National Laboratory, Turkana Basin Institute, Stony Brook Medicine, the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, the College of Business, the Alda Center, the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, the School of Journalism, Centre ValBio, the Simons Center for Geometry and Physics, Stony Brook Southampton, the Institute for Advanced Computational Science, the Laufer Center, the NYC finance sector and arts community, and the Long Island community. Along with investing in great people, the College needs to provide the infrastructure that allows these creators, scholars, and innovators to do their work. As a developing campus, we must reinvest for scholarship, research, and performance needs of the next 50 years.

**OBJECTIVES**

- Hire faculty and postdocs to strengthen key partnerships on and off campus. Partnerships with major research institutes and other colleges at Stony Brook represent vital differentiators that strengthen our scholarly mission.
- Invest in instrumentation, instruments, studios and labs for state-of-art creative work. Consider new investments such as a Center for Genomics, Institute for Biodiversity, or Center for Experimental Arts, and new facilities in Chemistry and Life Sciences.
- Invest $200,000 annually to support faculty and student innovation through seed funding or funds to support professional work. Invest such funds in departments.
- Endow 100 graduate fellowships with $2,000/student supplement to improve recruiting.
- Design space to bring together scholars from global cultures and languages.

Department of Anthropology Professor Sonia Harmand and her colleague, research scientist Jason Lewis lead Stony Brook’s West Turkana Archaeological Project (WTAP) team in their findings of the earliest stone tools dating 3.3 million years ago.

Stony Brook University is home to a new MFA in film; here, students filming on location in Manhattan.
“People think you can’t do anything with a liberal arts degree. You can go into finance, medicine, law… anything you want.”

– Stony Brook Undergrad

The College of Arts and Sciences will foster broad collaboration and mentorship within and across our disciplines that enable faculty, students, and staff in the College to reach their highest potential in scholarship, creative work, teaching, and learning.
With 30 academic departments and research centers, we have a strong tradition of incubating new ideas and educational models that build far beyond our individual departmental disciplines. Our College's liberal arts educational model likewise has cross-disciplinary emphasis: focused on the formation of the individual as well as the development of skills, we foster breadth of education and training in addition to depth in a technical discipline. Our graduates are steeped in ethics, culture, civics and scientific literacy, while equipped in the tools of a single discipline/major. Equipped with a liberal education, our students will explore careers far beyond their initial expectations and will grow as individuals over a lifetime in ways far beyond the jobs they pursue.

OBJECTIVES

- Support interdisciplinary work through the Humanities Institute as the incubator for the humanities. Create a new Center for Social Justice to support cross-disciplinary work on race, class, labor, incarceration, gender, and (in)equality.

- Foster breadth and depth in undergraduate education through a BA degree plan that requires both a major and minor in the College and develop minors across many disciplines. This degree structure will strengthen the education of STEM majors, giving skills and connections to the humanities, fine arts and social sciences, and to non-STEM majors, providing context in a technological world.

- Increase undergraduate support for experiential learning, summer research, internships, and partner with URECA, alumni and the Career Center to effectively mentor students in these areas. Support field schools such as those in Turkana Basin Institute, the Organization for Tropical Studies in Central America, and Centre ValBio in Madagascar. Consider postdoc positions to facilitate experiential learning for undergrads.

- Foster writing and communications for all majors, building on our commitment of introductory writing for all students. Explore stronger “writing in the disciplines” and other teaching collaborations with each of our departments. Explore the formation of a Department of Writing and Rhetoric that focuses on communications, language, and disciplinary writing. Explore the formation of a Department of Creative Writing and Film.
GOAL 3

The College of Arts and Sciences will foster a richly diverse community committed to success for students and faculty of all ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, genders, and abilities.
A VISION FOR THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

New York and Long Island are immigration centers of the U.S., and our richly diverse community is a source of strength. We are passionately committed to supporting the education and mentorship of these and all students at the undergraduate and graduate level. We have partnership opportunities with some of the highest needs school districts in the state. As the destination college for many students still exploring their college trajectory, we have a unique role at the university to ensure their success. As faculty, we are committed to representing that same diversity in our own ranks.

OBJECTIVES

• We will create a postdoctoral program to develop a pipeline of junior faculty from historically underrepresented minorities.

• We will expand undergraduate enrollment in the college in areas of capacity and create a recruitment team of faculty and staff for high school engagement. We will build relationships with school districts in NYC and Long Island.

• We will support student success and integration into academic programs by creating a Peer Advising Center that interfaces with Undergraduate Colleges and the Academic and Transfer Advising Office as well as our academic departments. This Center will assist our students settle into an academic program, particularly those who have not declared a major.

• We will commit to student success through our teaching and mentoring practices by supporting regular faculty development in evidence-based instruction, student success, retention, implicit bias in the classroom, and interventions that support student self-efficacy.

• We will raise the visibility and mission of the Departments of Africana Studies, Hispanic Languages and Literatures, Asian and Asian-American Studies, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies as well as the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Center as home bases for students and connect them with academic departments and mentors in the College through funding that fosters community amongst students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community.

Through a free, weeklong educational program held each summer, the Pre-College Institute aims to inspire local high school students who may not otherwise consider college.

The Black Womyn’s Association promotes unity on campus through its inclusiveness of members, regarding of gender or race.
GOAL 4

The College of Arts and Sciences will lead by engaging and enriching the education and public discourse in our communities.
Academic tradition calls for the sharing of findings and ideas generated here for the benefit of others. As a public university, it is uniquely within our mandate to use our ideas and creative work to strengthen local school systems, inform policy makers, contribute to public discourse, support civic organizations, and challenge popular beliefs. Such work enriches our ideas by applying them for practical benefit and finding new connections to other disciplines and audiences. It’s a privilege that we are able to thereby enrich the public who supports us.

OBJECTIVES

• We will increase our partnerships with local high schools, especially in high needs areas, and empower students to achieve four-year college degrees through such programs as expanding the Pre-College Institute to 200 students/year; developing an additional six (6) disciplinary summer programs that enrich high school partnerships in areas such as STEM, arts, language, history; and increasing ACE offerings to support regional schools with best-in-class curriculum and support from our campus.

• We will promote and train public intellectuals who can share the positive impacts of their work in public discourse. We will build on the Humanities Institute Public Intellectuals Workshops and the expertise of the Alda Center. We will explore a Public Humanities graduate certificate emphasizing media, internships, curation, and communication.

• We will promote campus events to our alumni and community on Long Island and in Manhattan, including concerts, lectures, Science Open Nights, exhibitions, screenings, and open houses. We will thereby seek greater community and K-12 engagement.
KNOWLEDGE CREATION

The College of Arts and Sciences is dedicated to the production and dissemination of new knowledge, as well as the preservation and interpretation of existing knowledge. We incubate creative work and scholarship in fundamental disciplines whose impact is felt well outside the College, connecting with medicine, technology, public policy, culture, education, the arts, business, and the environment. Across our diverse disciplines we find applications or translations to other fields because we are united by a desire to pursue curiosity-driven inquiries to understand the world around us.

Within the College, scholars make major advances by building teams from diverse disciplines. Philosophers collaborate with artists to study the aesthetics of art; psychologists partner with neurobiologists to study the nature of brain function; chemists team with museums to preserve art; economists, political scientists, and psychologists team with mathematicians to develop models of human behavior and decision making.

Through this fundamental research, the College increases the global prestige and prominence of Stony Brook University in areas that have exceptional impact on the human condition.

*Anthropology professor Elizabeth Stone takes students on excavations of the ancient Sumerian city of Ur in present-day Iraq. There they hope to understand the nature of ancient economies and political systems that led to modern western civilization.*
Stony Brook University is part of the elite American Association of Universities, the top 62 research universities in the U.S. It’s ranked in the top 1% of the world’s higher education institutions by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings. The College of Arts and Sciences is home to many of the university’s top programs.

Experts in their fields, our faculty includes recipients of Sloan research fellowships, NSF CAREER awards, ACS fellowships, among many others.
Our student body consists of 7% Black or African American students, 12% Hispanic or Latino students, and 20% Asian* students.

*Note: Includes students reporting just “Asian”; the percentage of students reporting their race as “Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander is less than 0.1%
FACILITATING ACCESS TO A DIVERSE PUBLIC

Public universities like Stony Brook fulfill a vital mission across the United States. Because New York is a multicultural hub of immigration into the U.S., Stony Brook plays a pivotal role in welcoming and preparing New Yorkers and new Americans for roles in our society. In particular, the College of Arts and Sciences is setting the standard for transforming the lives of students and families:

- 67% of students come from families earning less than $75,000 per year
- Nearly 40% of students will be the first in their family to attend college

According to Payscale and CollegeNet, Stony Brook ranked as the number 1 research university on the Social Mobility Index (SMI), a scale gauging the economic impact to a student of attaining a college degree at our institution.

Students in the College will experience the rich cultural tapestry of New York. Here, students can hear a concert of African drumming, a performance of classical Indian dance, attend a coffee house in the Latin American and Caribbean Center, participate in an origami workshop at the Confucius Institute, or attend lectures in the Humanities Institute. The environment of the College provides an opportunity to promote understanding and build relationships between individuals and cultures.

Our impact extends through our region. Our faculty are extensively involved in K-12 education and teacher preparation and certification. Many of our departments have developed partnerships with the local school systems in New York City and Long Island, either offering teacher training support or partnering on high school curricula.

Our departments offer Advanced College Education (ACE) courses to more than 1,750 high school students every year. Many of our faculty contribute to the Institute for STEM Education, which hosts more nearly 4,000 students on campus each year. By training a talented next generation, we equip New York and Long Island with an educated populace prepared to attract industry and commerce to this area.

Bronx-native Tayisha Saint Vil graduated from the College of Arts and Sciences in 2015 with a BA in women’s studies. The first in her family to go to college, she initially did not believe a college education would be accessible. She is continuing her studies to pursue a masters in social work and plans to go back to her community to empower the lives of others. She gave the December 2015 Commencement address.

Pre-College Institute
ENGAGEMENT AND ENRICHMENT

As part of a public university, the College of Arts and Sciences leads in the discovery of tools and foundational knowledge for improving human understanding of ourselves and our world. This enables students to achieve outcomes that exceed their initial expectations, and supports public dialog outside the walls of the university.

Our leadership supports economic and societal well-being far beyond the College and the University.

Our faculty have:

• Testified to legislators about the impact of minimum wage laws
• Served on public commissions on water usage
• Conducted first-ever research on the impact of immigration policies on families
• Been annually consulted for articles in major media on topics of urgent public debate

In addition:

• Music and Art departments perform hundreds of concerts and public exhibitions of work by faculty and students
• The Humanities Institute hosts symposia on race and mass incarceration, sexual violence, and public views on gender roles in the United States
• Host public lectures that shares world-leading research on the environment, ecological impacts of development in South America, Mars Rover missions, the discovery of water on the Moon, or the development of nanotechnology

As a College, we are committed to our role as public servants and are energized by educating and enriching the lives of the public who support us.
University Scholar Kristin Walter, ’16 created a well-rounded education by majoring in anthropology and psychology while minoring in studio art.

Political Science major Lydia Senatus, ’17, studied abroad in China and plans to pursue a career in the foreign service.

English Major Brian Mazeski, ’16’s pathway to activism began with involvement in SBU’s Stand Up Charter Against Bullying and Homophobia.
LAUNCHING A LIFETIME OF DISCOVERY

The College of Arts and Sciences sits at the core of Stony Brook University: as the liberal arts college for the campus, our disciplines and curricula allow students and faculty to explore diverse possibilities far beyond their initial expectations and prepare for a lifetime of discovery and civic participation. The College’s curriculum encourages students to consider what it means to be a productive global citizen.

The breadth of disciplines within the College provides students not only with the opportunity to tailor their intellectual inquiry specifically to their needs but to see far beyond their initial interests to new and unexpected opportunities. A liberal arts education encourages interdisciplinary well-roundedness.

At a research institution like Stony Brook, a liberal arts education not only encourages students to be curious, but to do so in an environment where they are asked to create and produce, whether it be in the concert hall, studio, laboratory, or on the page. Technology and science learning is supplemented with ethical and conscientious decision-making and the ability to encounter others responsibly.

A liberal arts education trains students to adapt to new environments by making them lifelong learners. It encourages students to engage in an ongoing self-examination, so that they are poised to reveal, challenge, and alter their habits and assumptions. Students educated in the College develop the intellectual flexibility to think creatively and critically and to communicate persuasively with others in oral and written form. They are equipped for the next step of their lives, whether further education or entry into the professional world.

Our faculty embody this sense of lifelong learning. While trained in the methods of the core disciplines such as chemistry, history, political sciences, neurobiology, and economics, they find applications and extensions of their ideas all across the College and University. What unites our faculty is the curiosity and drive to create new ideas, and the confidence that applications and uses will come.
“Our mission is to educate students and advance research, in both cases trying to understand a cultural history and develop habits of minds once they move off campus. That broad training helps students understand their primary area of study. If you do this enough they become rounded, flexible thinkers.”

– Stony Brook faculty member
On the cover: Dept. of Chemistry professor Roy Lacey participates in the Relativistic Heavy Ion Collider (RHIC) experiment at Brookhaven National Laboratory. In relativistic collisions at a particle accelerator, the experiment re-creates the hot, dense environment of the early Universe after the Big Bang.