August 2014

Dear Neighbor,

With the fall semester upon us and students returning to the University, I’d like to update you on Stony Brook University’s progress in addressing on- and off-campus housing and community issues.

This summer the University broke ground on a new residence facility that will add 759 beds on campus for undergraduate students. When the new facility is fully operational in 2016, Stony Brook University will have the highest capacity of on-campus housing of SUNY’s 64 campuses. In the meantime, the University is adding more than 650 beds to existing residence halls this semester, allowing the University to provide beds for nearly all freshmen who choose to live on campus.

In addition, we continue to explore other housing opportunities in the community for upper-classmen. For the 2014–2015 academic year, approximately 200 Stony Brook University students are expected to reside at the Brookhaven Residential Village on Dowling’s Brookhaven campus. This housing option will provide our students with apartment-style accommodations, and the University will provide shuttle transportation between the Brookhaven Residential Village and the campus.

The lack of affordable housing on Long Island makes it difficult for our graduate students to find places to live, and it often hinders the University’s ability to attract and retain new faculty. In response to the need for more affordable options, Stony Brook has been in discussion with several developers, exploring the possibility of new construction in appropriately zoned neighborhoods in Suffolk County.

Student safety in off-campus housing continues to be a major focus for Stony Brook. We are refreshing and renewing our efforts each semester to educate our students about being good neighbors. Our new guide, Living Off Campus, will be distributed to all commuters and students considering living in the community. Also, the newly expanded Office of Commuter Student Services and Off-Campus Living has increased its resources for responding to commuter student needs.

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You should be aware that students living in the community are expected to adhere to certain standards of appropriate behavior. As you may recall, there was a party last spring on Stony Brook Road in a house rented by Stony Brook students. The University responded swiftly, and the three students found responsible were disciplined.

Stony Brook University will continue its efforts to educate students about the importance of being a respectful and responsible neighbor, and I will continue to keep you updated on developments of interest to the community.

Sincerely,

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD
President
Stony Brook University