

A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

From Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.



Stony Brook University is starting the academic year with a sense of momentum, building on plans and initiatives set in motion over the past months. I'd like to share news of some exciting developments.

Universities are often at the forefront of topics of national and global impact, and I am proud to report that Stony Brook is actively ensuring an inclusive community through our role as one of 10 HeForShe University Impact Champions, dedicated to supporting the UN Women's global initiative for gender equality. We are integrating gender equality into the academic and social experience, and through our Center for the Study of Men and Masculinities, we are working toward building a global understanding of the role of men in this effort. We recently hosted Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, who spoke on achieving gender equality. I also had the honor of representing Stony Brook at a UN Women event launching the HeForShe University Parity Report on gender equality in academia. For more information, visit stonybrook.edu/heforshe.

On a related note, the University worked over the summer to develop specific actions to bring the new Stony Brook University Plan for Equity, Inclusion and Diversity to fruition. We are pleased that we placed 7th on a list from BestColleges.com of the top 100 most diverse campuses in the country, and we continue to build upon that foundation. Diversity events are scheduled throughout the year. On October 25 we will present *Defamation*, a nationally acclaimed interactive courtroom drama that explores race, religion, gender, class and the law. The event is free and open to the community. See stonybrook.edu/diversityplan.

As the leader in the region's healthcare, Stony Brook Medicine continues to expand its services and care in the community. Stony Brook Medicine and the Mount Sinai Health System have entered into an affiliation agreement that includes collaboration on research, academic programs and clinical-care initiatives. Through the partnership, the schools will develop joint graduate and medical educational programs.

The continued momentum of this great University could not be possible without the financial support and commitment from our friends and neighbors. Nearly 700 community members donated to the new Children's Hospital building, which will provide lifesaving, specialized care close to home, thanks to a \$2.5 million matching challenge grant from the Knapp Swezey Foundation. Since 2011, the Campaign for Stony Brook has secured more than \$468 million in gifts and pledges toward our ambitious \$600 million goal — the largest campaign in SUNY history. The funding will be used for faculty and academic support, research, student financial aid, campus life, facilities and other campus initiatives.

Safe off-campus housing continues to be a point of focus for us. We have been working closely with Town of Brookhaven officials and local community leaders to address concerns from residents and work with our students about appropriate behavior and tenants' rights. For students who want to stay on campus, there are two new residence halls opening — one this fall and one in the spring. This will bring the total number of beds on campus to more than 10,000, the highest number at any SUNY campus.

Through the spring and summer, we worked on developing a Request for Qualifications, inviting developers to share their proposals for development of University property. We are interested in hearing from qualified companies to assist in creating a campus village of mixed-use facilities that works in concert with the community.

As always, our athletic teams continue to delight our fans. There are few events that can bring the campus and community together like a football game, so don't forget to mark your calendars for Wolfstock, our homecoming tradition, on Saturday, October 15, when the Seawolves take on the Rhode Island Rams. Make a day of it by enjoying the barbecue before the big game. Get your tickets at stonybrook.edu/wolfstock.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. L. Stanley Jr." in a cursive style.

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



Stony Brook University