

July 13, 2019, 1:15 AM, Provost's Office

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

It is with profound sadness I write to inform you that Professor David L. Ferguson suddenly died last night. My heart goes out to all of Dave's loved ones, friends, students, and colleagues.

At Stony Brook since 1981, Dave was Department Chair and Distinguished Service Professor of Technology and Society with a joint appointment in Applied Mathematics and Statistics. He was a passionate researcher, teacher, and mentor whose teaching and research pursuits were intertwined with a focus on issues of quantitative reasoning; problem solving; decision making; the use and assessment of educational technologies; technology in mathematics; and science and engineering education.

During the past decade, Dave took a significant leadership role in developing the campus diversity plan, and in serving as a Provost's Scholar for Diversity and Inclusion. He was a leader in and out of the classroom, driven by his lifelong interest in building diversity in STEM disciplines, and in securing the federal funding to achieve that goal. In 1992, Dave received the SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Teaching.

The recipient of many research grants, Dave co-directed the NSF-supported Algorithm Discovery Development Project and two NSF-funded Faculty Enhancement Workshops on the teaching of introductory computer science courses. With support from the Sloan Foundation, he developed a course in Applications of Mathematics for liberal arts students. Dave also co-designed and co-taught a multidisciplinary Stony Brook course, jointly offered by Biological Sciences and the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, on Computer Modeling of Biological Systems.

Dave was a New York State and national leader in programs to enhance the participation of underrepresented minority students in undergraduate and graduate science, mathematics, engineering, and technology programs. He was a member of the executive committee of the NSF Recognition Award for the Integration of Research and Education (RAIRE). From 1998 until 2002, Dave directed Stony Brook's Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching (CELT). He enjoyed a very diverse learning environment where educators, engineers, environmental professionals, and current as well as emerging leaders, learned collaboratively.

University President Sam Stanley said Friday evening, "Dave's national leadership in STEM education, his commitment to helping underrepresented minorities succeed in STEM, and his extraordinary service to the University as Chair of Tech and Society, along with his membership and participation in multiple critical committees across campus made him one in a million. He is truly an irreplaceable friend and colleague and I will miss him immensely." As will we all.

Sincerely,

Michael

Michael A. Bernstein, Professor of Business, Economics, and History
Interim President-Designate
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs