



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Science and Security: President Stanley Takes a Leadership Role



March 11, 2019 ACE panel, left to right, Terry Hartle, Senior Vice President for Government Relations and Public Affairs, ACE; William Evanina, Director of the National Counterintelligence and Security Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; President Stanley.

On March 11, 2019, [President Stanley](#) joined U.S. Director of the [National Counterintelligence and Security Center](#), [William Evanina](#), on a panel entitled "Science, Security, and Foreign Influence: Insights from Federal Agencies and Higher Education Leadership" at the [American Council on Education](#) (ACE) Conference in Philadelphia. During the presentation, he highlighted his recent work on the NIH Director's Advisory Board that was tasked with making recommendations on foreign influences on U.S. research. Research universities are being asked by funders to increase awareness of the potential for foreign influence in the research arena. The Advisory Board outlined in its final [report](#) that institutions must follow their own policies on conflict of commitment and conflict of interest, make sure that faculty

are fully disclosing their sources of funding and collaborators, and develop methods to verify that such reporting is accurate. President Stanley noted that it is critical to ensure that the actions of a few individuals and foreign governments do not lead to widespread restrictions on international collaborations, which would inhibit the ability of international students and scientists to contribute to research in the United States. It is important to make sure that the perspectives of universities, research centers, and researchers are represented when national policy decisions are being made in these critical areas.

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Up in Albany

\$175B NYS Budget - Wins and Losses

There were some wins and losses for SUNY and Stony Brook in the [on-time budget](#) recently passed by the Legislature. On the plus side, the budget includes an advancement of funds to SUNY that will cover one year of retroactive pay for contractual salary increases. The budget fails, however, to provide a restoration of



New York State Capitol

\$78.6M in operating aid for Stony Brook Hospital, Downstate Medical Center and Upstate Medical University. Stony Brook Hospital would have received \$34M of that amount. There was extensive work done to outline the financial impact on the SUNY hospitals if this cut were to take effect, including a [letter](#) signed by President Stanley and his hospital leadership counterparts urging restoration or another type of fix that was circulated throughout the legislature.

OPERATING BUDGET

In addition to the funds for one year off the retroactive raises, the operating budget contains increased funding for Educational Opportunity Programs; and provides another year of [\\$670,000 in funding](#) secured by [Assemblyman Steve Englebright](#) that will be used towards the implementation of Stony Brook Cancer Center's application to the National Institute of Health to be designated a [National Cancer Institute](#). [Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie](#) also secured \$100,000 for Stony Brook's [Algonquin Language restoration project](#). While the issue of the need to cover the TAP Gap was discussed in both houses during budget negotiations, no funding was provided. TAP continues to be pegged to 2010-11 tuition levels, which costs SBU \$9M per year to fill the gap for our students.

CAPITAL BUDGET

Direct critical maintenance support to all campuses declined sharply although the overall amount of capital for SUNY remains the same as last year. Stony Brook will receive \$23.3M down from \$49M in the FY2018-19 budget. \$396M in critical maintenance funding was provided to SUNY to distribute to priority projects on campuses across the state. Stony Brook has already developed a list of needed projects for SUNY funding consideration. No extra funding was provided for SUNY capital projects, including Stony Brook's request for a second round of funds for a [new engineering building](#). It is possible, however, that the Legislature will introduce a separate capital funding bill to be considered before the end of the legislative session. Additionally, through the support of [Assemblyman Fred Thiele](#) and [Senator Ken LaValle](#), a previous appropriation for \$250,000 was redirected to support development of program and academic space at Stony Brook Southampton. Language that would have authorized the SUNY Construction Fund to allow for design/build projects was not included in the final budget.

STUDENT TUITION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

The budget permitted a continuation of the Predictable Tuition plan authorizing another year of \$200 tuition increases for in-state students and fully implements the Excelsior Scholarship program by increasing eligibility based on adjusted gross income to \$125,000 per year. The [Senator Jose R. Peralta DREAM Act](#) was authorized allowing students without lawful immigration status to be eligible for the [Excelsior Scholarship](#), [TAP](#) and other state financial assistance programs.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Centers of Excellence in Advanced Energy ([AERTC](#)) and Wireless and Information Technology ([CEWIT](#)) were again funded at \$1M each and the Centers for Advanced Technology ([CAT](#)) will again be funded at \$920,000 each. Additional funding for the state's fifteen CATs was provided and, if distributed evenly, will bring each to \$959,000. Other areas of interest in the budget include eligibility for all universities, colleges and community colleges to apply for \$55M in NY SUNY 2020 grants as well as \$150M in new funding provided to the Regional Economic Development Committees ([REDC](#)).

OTHER ISSUES

A study will be conducted by the NYS Department of Health to determine how staffing enhancements and other initiatives could be used to improve healthcare at hospitals. The [Property Tax Cap](#) was made permanent, which limits the year-to-year increase to property tax rates to two-percent. Language for food scrap recycling was included that will require entities (excluding hospitals) that generate an annual average of two tons of or more of food scraps to recycle the waste under rules to be written by the Department of Environmental Conservation.

For a more in-depth summary of the budget's impact on public higher education, see [SUNY's summary](#) of the enacted state budget or email michael.arens@stonybrook.edu.

Karen Chen-Wiegart Highlights SBU Research at Chancellor's SOTUS Address

Karen Chen-Wiegart of the [College of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#), with a Joint Appointment at the U.S. Department of

Energy's [Brookhaven National Laboratory](#), represented Stony Brook University at the 2019 Chancellor's State of The University System (SOTUS) Address in Albany, NY. [SUNY Chancellor Kristina M. Johnson](#) delivered her second State of the University System address on January 31, 2019 from the Albany Capital Center.

Chancellor Johnson spoke on the 2019 initiatives to increase faculty diversity, expand the breadth of online offerings and improve overall student support. SUNY schools were able to participate in the event and showcase their latest work across a wide range of topics including research, student opportunities, workforce development and campus partnerships and collaborations.



Dr. Karen Chen-Wiegart

Chen-Wiegart, an assistant professor in SBU's [Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering](#), showcased one of her research projects at the intriguing intersection between the fields of art and science. Her research interests are focused on applying state-of-the-art X-ray imaging and spectroscopic techniques to studying novel functional materials.

[Read the full story](#)

On the Hill

SBU Energy Expert urges Congress to Invest in Energy Resilience Research to Maintain US Leadership in Innovation and Security



David Hamilton

On Tuesday, March 19, [David Hamilton](#), Stony Brook University's Executive Director for the Clean Energy Business Incubator Program ([CEBIP](#)) and Director of Operations for the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center ([AERTC](#)) met with Congressional staff in Washington, D.C. to discuss the importance of federal investments in energy resilience research.

"As the U.S. transforms its energy reliance from conventional sources to more sustainable technologies, there are many research issues that need to be addressed and technological hurdles to be overcome. These challenges can be best met by leveraging experienced energy university researchers working in concert with industry partners and the [Department of Defense](#)," said Hamilton. "Strategic federal investments in energy resilience research is necessary to increase sustainability and resiliency for our military and the U.S.

power industry."

Stony Brook's [Office of Government Relations](#) coordinated the Hill meetings and continues to work closely with members of Congress on Stony Brook's federal [priorities](#).

[Read the full story](#)

\$1.7M NSF Grant Will Support Career Development for the Underrepresented

Stony Brook University's [Center for Inclusive Education](#) is leading an alliance between SBU, Farmingdale State College, and Suffolk County Community College to provide career development for historically underrepresented minority (URM) doctoral degree students in STEM. The program, funded by a \$1.7 million grant from the [National Science Foundation](#) (NSF), aims to successfully transition such students into faculty positions at predominantly undergraduate institutions.

[Read the full story](#)

Rising-Star CS Professor Wins VMware Early-Career Faculty Grant

On the heels of being named a [rising star](#) in computer networking, Computer Science Professor [Aruna Balasubramanian](#) has been awarded a highly selective [VMware Early-Career Faculty Grant](#), which is given to recently appointed faculty whose research interests and accomplishments seem poised to have significant impact within the industry and academia. Presented as a gift to the researcher's

university, the funding supports research and promotes excellence in teaching.

"Aruna is a rising star in the area of mobile systems research," said [Samir Das](#), Chair of the [Department of Computer Science](#) in the [College of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#). "Her work on mobile web, mobile offloading, and mobile energy efficiency has spawned tremendous follow-up research and has won her several awards. Apart from being an active researcher, her organizational efforts and commitment to advancing women in STEM are stellar."

[Read the full story](#)



Academic leaders of the NSF-funded AGEP career development program



Aruna Balasubramanian

In Our Community

Free Shuttle Makes Port Jefferson Easily Accessible From Campus

It's only about five miles from the Stony Brook campus to downtown Port Jefferson, but those five miles can seem like 500 when there's no simple and convenient way to get there...especially in cold or inclement weather. To help make the attractions of Port Jefferson easily and safely accessible to students and employees, the University has partnered with the Port Jefferson Village to provide a [free shuttle](#) between the two locations. With an assist from dedicated street signage in the Village, it won't be hard for visitors to see that Port Jefferson is "Seawolves Country."

[Read the full story](#)

School of Dental Medicine Brings Back-to-Back Smiles to LI Children



Mayor Margot Garant (front center), President Stanley (third from right), Judith Greiman (far right), and Wolfie (second from right) help kick off the new shuttle.

Stony Brook [School of Dental Medicine](#) students and faculty kicked off National Children's Dental Health month by attending [Give Kids A Smile](#) events organized by local dental organizations, Nassau County Dental Society and Suffolk County Dental Society. Children that



Students from the Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine at the Long Island Aquarium in Riverhead for the Give Kids A Smile event organized by Suffolk County Dental Society.

attended from Long Island communities were provided with free dental screenings, cleanings and fluoride treatments.

The Give Kids A Smile program, launched nationally by the American Dental Association in 2003, has helped to bring more than 5.5 million underserved children free oral health services. Each year, Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine supports the two February events held locally in addition to leading its own back-to-school event in August in its Dental Care Center.

[Read the full story](#)

Scholarship Donors and Students Gather at Annual Scholarship Celebration

For scholarship donors at Stony Brook University, helping a student to pay for college means more than a donation. Behind every named scholarship, there is a human connection between the donor and recipient that goes far beyond financial support. Those connections were on full display on Tuesday, March 12, as scholarship donors and recipients gathered at Flowerfield in St. James for the University's annual scholarship celebration.

"This event is truly one of my favorites, because it brings together many different generations, all of whom care about and believe in the power of Stony Brook," said Stony Brook University [President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD](#), himself a scholarship donor along with his wife, [Dr. Ellen Li](#). "I never forget that behind each donation there is someone who consciously decided to invest in our students and our programs by making a gift to the Stony Brook Foundation."

[Read the full story](#)



Ariel Yang '15 '21 addresses scholarship donors and fellow students at a scholarship celebration on March 12 at Flowerfield in St. James, N.Y.

Upcoming Events

Friday, April 5, 2019

[SOMAS Southampton Lecture Series](#)

State of the Bays 2019: Building Resilience Against Climate Change While We Can

Speaker: Christopher Gobler

Saturday, April 6, 2019

[Regina Carter Quartet](#)

Staller Center Recital Hall

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

[Stars of Stony Brook Gala](#)

Honoring distinguished alumnae and President of the Simons Foundation, Marilyn H. Simons, '74, PhD '84, Hon.'08

Friday, April 19, 2019

[Earthstock Lecture: Return to the Madhouse: Climate Denial in the Age of Trump](#)

Speaker: Michael Mann, Distinguished Professor of Atmospheric Science at Penn State University

Wednesday, April 24, 2019

[Writers Speak: Sharon Dolin and Chloe Caldwell](#)

Stony Brook Southampton Duke Lecture Hall

Friday, April 26, 2019

[Men's Lacrosse vs UAlbany](#)

Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium

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