



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Stony Brook Achieves Highest-Ever U.S. News Ranking



Stony Brook University Campus

Stony Brook University has been ranked No. 80 among U.S. colleges and universities by [U.S. News & World Report](#), the highest ranking in the university's history and up 17 places from No. 97 last year. Among public universities nationally, Stony Brook University ranks No. 32.

U.S. News and World Report's methodology focuses on qualitative and quantitative data with 16 metrics of academic excellence, including student outcomes, faculty resources, expert opinions, financial resources and student excellence. This year, improved

graduation rates, smaller class sizes, and higher reputation scores from peers and high school counselors lifted the University's overall ranking. The University's record-high 72% graduation rate is five percentage points above the expected graduation rate of 67%.

[Read the full story](#)

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Up in Albany

Senators Flanagan & LaValle Announce \$25M for New Engineering Building

[NYS Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan](#) and [Senator Ken LaValle](#) recently met with President Samuel Stanley, Jr. and Fotis Sotiropoulos, Dean of the [School of Engineering and Applied Sciences](#) to announce \$25M in NYS Senate funding that will enable SBU to begin the initial phases for developing a [new engineering building](#) on campus.



(l-r) Dean Fotis Sotiropoulos, President Samuel Stanley Jr., Senator Ken LaValle, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan

Stony Brook is one of the major producers of engineering graduates within SUNY and faces challenges of surging enrollments and aging inadequate facilities to support engineering instruction that aligns with industry expectations. A new building will address the enrollment growth and support New York State's workforce and entrepreneurship needs over the coming decade. It will be designed with active-learning studio classrooms and spaces, and the resources needed to turn student ideas into innovation and discovery. It will support the significant growth in the engineering and computer science fields by providing modern space for experiential learning, industrial quality labs, and entrepreneurial maker spaces, which in turn will enhance the focus on engineering-

driven medicine, energy systems for sustainability, resilient cities and ecosystems, cybersecurity and AI-driven discovery.

Most importantly, the new facility will provide our entire region with a chance to be at the center of a burgeoning field that will create high-paying jobs and real opportunity for the residents of the region. The aim is to provide students with new opportunities, empower their skills and encourage them to stay on Long Island after graduation to work in an industry where they can truly make a difference in the world.

On the Hill

School of Dental Medicine Leadership Advocates in DC



Dr. Ann Nasti

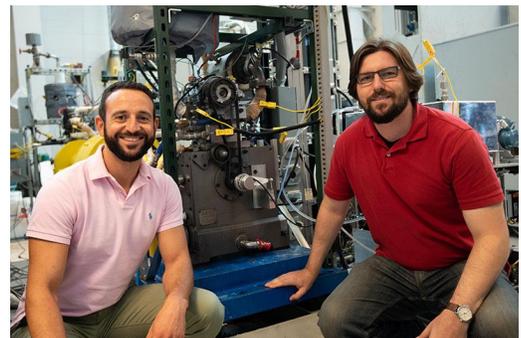
On Tuesday, September 18, [Dr. Ann Nasti](#), Associate Dean for Clinical Education at Stony Brook University's [School of Dental Medicine](#), joined colleagues from around the nation to take part in the [American Dental Education Association's](#) 2018 [Advocacy Day](#) in Washington, DC.

During meetings with representatives of [Leader Chuck Schumer](#), [Senator Kirsten Gillibrand](#), and [Congressman Lee Zeldin](#), Dr. Nasti emphasized why funding for oral health training programs and the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research funding ([NIDCR](#)) is critical for the overall health of patients as well as the advancement of the oral health care professions.

[Read the full story](#)

Mamalis, Lawler Win \$1.49M DOE Grant to Advance Biofuels

SBU faculty members [Sotirios Mamalis](#) and [Ben Lawler](#) have received a \$1.49 million grant from the U.S. Department of Energy ([DOE](#)) - Vehicle Technologies Office to advance the next generation of biofuels. Both are assistant professors in the Department of [Mechanical Engineering](#) at Stony Brook University. Their proposal, "Naphthenic Biofuel-Diesel Blend for Optimizing Mixing Controlled Compression Ignition Combustion," was selected as part of a total of \$10.1 million in funding to Engines and Fuels research projects.



Mechanical Engineering Professors Sotirios Mamalis and Ben Lawler

[Read the full story](#)

SBU Wins \$1,349,533 STEM Education Grant

SBU received a \$1,349,533 grant from the [National Science Foundation](#) to research models to advance underrepresented minority STEM faculty at predominantly undergraduate institutions.



David Ferguson

"The aim of the project is to build a comprehensive national model for preparing underrepresented minority doctoral students for faculty positions in predominantly undergraduate institutions," said Principal Investigator and SBU's Associate Provost for Diversity and Inclusion [Dave Ferguson](#). "The applied research component of the project will offer insights into the mechanisms for preparing and supporting students for early faculty success in their STEM research and teaching."

[Read the announcement](#)

Researchers Prepare to Explore Extreme Lunar Environments



Astrobotic field-testing their autonomous navigation.

As the United States prepares to visit the surface of the Moon once again, scientists from the [RIS4E](#) node of NASA's Solar System Exploration Research Virtual Institute ([SSERVI](#)), led by researchers from the Stony Brook University [College of Arts and Sciences](#), are partnering with [Astrobotic Technology](#) to demonstrate the robotic technologies needed to explore and study our nearest neighbor's most interesting and challenging destinations.

[Read the full story](#)

Interning with Stony Brook's Office of Federal Relations in Washington, DC

Luigi Pesce Ibarra, a doctoral candidate in [Health and Rehabilitation Sciences](#) with a concentration in Rehabilitation and Movement Sciences, [shares his experience](#) as the summer 2018 intern of Stony Brook's Office of Federal Relations located off of Capitol Hill in Washington, DC.



Luigi Pesce Ibarra

In Our Community

Stony Brook Receives 2018 HEED Award from INSIGHT Into Diversity Magazine

Stony Brook University received the 2018 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity ([HEED](#)) Award - a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion - from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine on September 15.

[Read the full story](#)



Top Colleges for Diversity

E-Cigs May Pack Dangerous Punch

Teenaged vapers may be inhaling more nicotine than cigarette smokers, researchers have found.

A new study that looked at nicotine exposure of adolescent e-cigarette users, specifically those who use 'pod' vaping devices like Juul, found that levels of urinary cotinine, a byproduct of nicotine metabolism, were even higher than what has been reported among adolescent cigarette



Rachel Boykan, MD

smokers.

[Rachel Boykan, MD](#), Principal Investigator, and a pediatrician at Stony Brook Children's, emphasized that "the level of nicotine exposure found in our participants is alarming - it raises significant concerns about the risk of nicotine addiction and long term product use."

[Read the full story](#)

Make an Impact: Give Clean Water, Track Your Footprint and Stay Hydrated

The Office of Sustainability and the Faculty Student Association ([FSA](#)) have partnered to launch a new sustainability program called [Fill it](#)

[Forward](#). The Fill it Forward program offers free cup tags to students to promote sustainability, hydration and philanthropy.

Since its inception this program has prevented 566,426 disposable cups from going into landfills and 2,000 pounds of plastic from being polluted into oceans.



[Read the full story](#)

Upcoming Events

Seawolves Football vs Villanova

September 29, 2018

October Events at the Simons Center

State of the University Address

October 3, 2018

Tick Borne Symposium

October 4, 2018

Women's Soccer vs. Binghamton

October 4, 2018

Stony Brook Symphony Orchestra

October 6, 2018

[Full Stony Brook events calendar](#)

**Contact Information:
Office of Government and Community Relations**

**(631) 632-6302
governmentrelations@stonybrook.edu**



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