



Stony Brook
University

Vice President for Research

Position Prospectus

Excellence • Equity • Collaboration • Innovation • Community



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University



Vice President for Research **Position Description**

[Stony Brook University](#) is seeking an outstanding leader with exceptional strategic, financial, operational, and interpersonal capabilities to join the University's executive team as Vice President for Research (VPR). Reporting to Stony Brook's President, the VPR is the senior executive responsible for developing and stewarding the University's research enterprise. The VPR will also serve as Stony Brook's Operations Manager (OM) of the [Research Foundation \(RF\) for the State University of New York](#), a 501(c)(3) nonprofit education corporation established to service the administrative activities related to sponsored research. Stony Brook's new VPR will join the University's leadership team at an extraordinarily exciting moment, as the University deploys unprecedented new funds generated through philanthropy, establishes its new climate-research center on Governor's Island, and solidifies its status as a flagship campus of the SUNY system. Stony Brook's recently published [strategic plan](#), *Our Moment*, identifies growing the University's research enterprise for impact as one of four overarching priorities.

Stony Brook University

Stony Brook University is one of two flagships of the State University of New York (SUNY) system. It is a leading public university, an internationally recognized research and medical institution, and a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU). It is known as one of the nation's premier centers for academic excellence and is a leader in generating social mobility with a proud history of undergraduate student success. Stony Brook is located approximately 60 miles east of Manhattan on Long Island's beautiful North Shore.

Situated on 1,454 wooded acres, the campus encompasses 12 schools and colleges; a Research and Development Park; a host of centers and institutes that range in focus from education, arts, and culture to STEM, business, and medicine; and world-class athletics facilities, including a 12,300-seat stadium and a 4,000-seat arena. The University also includes Stony Brook Medicine, Long Island's premier academic health system encompassing five health sciences schools, four hospitals, 200 community-based healthcare settings, and a growing number of clinical affiliations. On either side of Nicolls Road, the academic campus and the health sciences campus form West and East campus respectively. Stony Brook University has an additional teaching and research campus in Southampton, NY, which is home to graduate arts programs, health sciences professional programs, and the Marine Sciences Center. Since 1998, Stony Brook, in partnership with Battelle, has managed the [Brookhaven National Laboratory](#), one of only 17 Department of Energy National Labs, with many faculty holding joint appointments.

The University enrolled 25,865 students in fall 2023 (17,549 undergraduate students and 8,316 graduate students) and supports almost 300 postdoctoral scholars. It offers more than 200 majors, minors, and combined degree programs. Students come to Stony Brook from nearly all 50 U.S. States and over 100 countries. About one-third of Stony Brook's undergraduates are first-generation students. Stony Brook is a diverse community, and the 2023 entering-class profile was 49% male and 51% female. Its racially and ethnically diverse student body is 27.9% Asian, 5.8% African American, 13.3% Hispanic/Latinx, 13.3%

nonresident alien, 30.4% Caucasian, 2.7% two or more races, and 6.5% not indicated/unknown. International students constitute 13% of Stony Brook's total enrollment. The University enjoys a strong international presence, maintaining affiliation agreements with about 100 universities in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and Oceania.

A core value of Stony Brook is its commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility. The University has recently been recognized for its leading role in providing opportunities for social mobility and economic growth for its students. These outcomes are singled out in a recent study by the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research, which concluded that Stony Brook offers a proven path toward upward advancement for students from low-income households, far ahead of many of its better-funded peers, both public and private. The University outperforms the national graduation rates of four-year institutions regardless of race or ethnicity. Stony Brook graduates have less debt than the national average of college graduates, and 95 percent of recent graduates are either employed or continuing their education. In 2024, *U.S. News and World Report* ranked Stony Brook as a top-30 public institution and the #1 public university in New York State.

As Long Island's largest single-site employer, the University has over 15,000 full and part-time employees, including more than 2,700 faculty. Stony Brook's expected 2023-24 operating budget is nearly \$4 billion, with monies generated from a variety of sources including academic and research funds, hospital revenue, tuition, state support, and philanthropy. Thanks in large measure to the transformative 2023 gift of \$500M in unrestricted endowment funds by the [Simons Foundation](#) – the largest-ever such gift to any US university – Stony Brook's endowment has grown to approximately \$750 million and will grow towards \$1 billion when matching gifts triggered by the Simons donation arrive. The growing endowment will propel the University's efforts in education, research, and service. More detailed information about the University's budget and fiscal plans are available in its [Achieving Financial Sustainability Plan](#).

Beyond the Simons Foundation gift and the matching gifts from New York State and other donors that it has triggered, 2023 has been an extraordinary year for the University. Among other notable accomplishments, Stony Brook was the anchor institution in the [successful bid](#) to develop Governors Island as a hub for climate and resilience research and discovery. This success follows the 2022 move by New York State governor Kathy Hochul to identify Stony Brook as one of two [flagship universities](#) in the SUNY system, positioning it to receive \$100 million in state funding for new facilities, research collaborations (including with nearby Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory), and seed funds to catalyze innovative research programs and faculty startup packages.

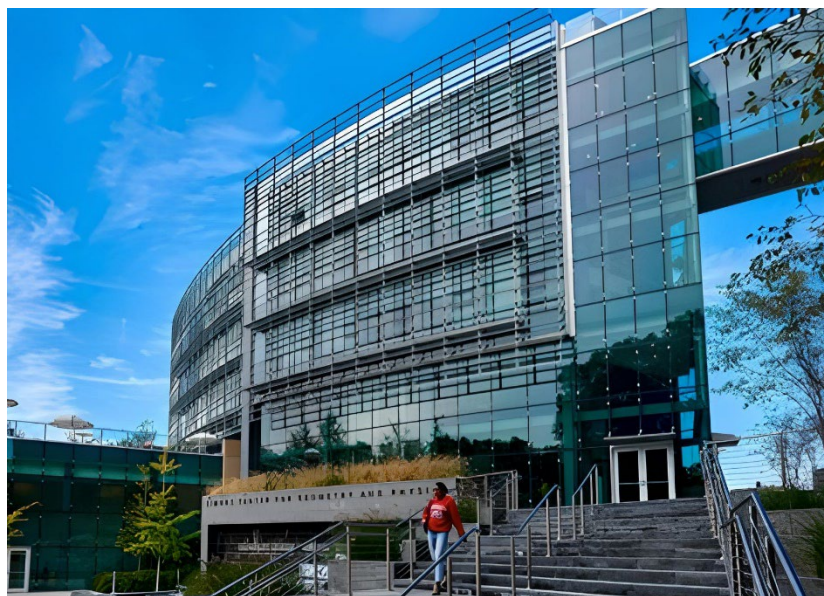
Research at Stony Brook

Stony Brook faculty are known for their outstanding research, scholarship, and creative activity. Faculty members are recipients of many national and international awards for their research, creative activity, and teaching. Notable accomplishments and recognitions earned by Stony Brook faculty and associated faculty over the years include:

- 27 members of the National Academy of Science

- Six members of the National Academy of Engineering
- Six members of the National Academy of Medicine
- 14 members of the National Academy of Inventors
- 29 members of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- Six Fellows of the Royal Society
- The 2003 Nobel Prize in Medicine for developing the first MRI images
- 1957 Nobel Laureate in Physics and Stony Brook University faculty member C.N. Yang
- Inaugural President's Distinguished Endowed Chair in Physics, 2017 Nobel Laureate Barry Barish.

With more than 2,500 faculty, staff, graduate students, and postdoctoral trainees engaged in research and over 2000 sponsored awards, Stony Brook's Research and Development (R&D) expenditures were over \$312 million, including \$184 million of Federal sponsored R&D expenditures, as reported in the University's 2021-2022 NSF HERD data. Of the \$184 million in federal funding, 50% was from NIH, 22% from NSF, 13% from DOE, 7% from DOD, and 3% from NASA. Roughly 5% of Stony Brook's research funding last year, or nearly \$11 million, came from industry sponsors and partners. Stony Brook's annual research expenditures have grown by 50% since 2014.



Stony Brook is home to numerous [research centers and institutes](#), including the Center for Frontiers in Nuclear Science, the C.N. Yang Institute for Theoretical Physics, the Turkana Basin Institute, the Cancer Center, the Centers for Molecular Medicine, the Laufer Center, the Institute for Chemical Biology and Drug Discovery, Institute for Discovery and Innovation in Medical Engineering, Institute for Advanced Computational Science, and Long Island Network for Clinical and Translational Science. In addition, there are

numerous large federally funded centers, including two DOE-funded Energy Frontiers Research Centers (EFRC), the CDC/NIOSH-funded World Trade Center Wellness Program, and as lead institution for the NSF-funded large facilities grant The US Collaboration for the ATLAS Experiment at the Large Hadron Collider. Among Stony Brook faculty are approximately 50 joint appointments with Brookhaven National Laboratory, where many faculty and students are involved in research activities and access unique user facilities.

Stony Brook's longstanding relationship with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory enables University researchers to collaborate with CSHL's research staff, for instance in the Genetics Graduate Program,

and to access CSHL's unique user facilities. Similarly, Stony Brook's role as co-manager Brookhaven National Laboratory enables faculty and grad students to take advantage of BNL's significant research infrastructure and scale.

The Stony Brook Research and Development Park, located on 246 acres adjacent to the main campus, has been designed as a community of innovators who build solutions to society's most pressing problems, leveraging Stony Brook's research strengths in three convergent areas: energy, information technology, and biomedical technology. The R&D Park is home to two NY State-funded Centers of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology (CEWIT) and Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center (AERTC). State-of-the-art facilities provide resources to researchers, entrepreneurs, and users from academic, corporate, and government sectors. The R&D Park and other research facilities across the campus continue to attract and retain preeminent faculty and outstanding students, and to produce cutting-edge research and creative activities that will secure Stony Brook's place among the very best research universities.

Between 2021-2022, Stony Brook launched a "Tiger Team" initiative to identify priority areas to focus in developing larger-scale research programs as well as services and infrastructure necessary to develop the research enterprise transformatively. The initiative, described [here](#), brought new clarity to the investments Stony Brook can make in research in order to fully leverage its impressive disciplinary breadth.

Also in 2021, Stony Brook president Maurie McInnis announced the Presidential Innovation and Excellence (PIE) Fund, with an initial \$75 million investment. The fund exists to underwrite potentially transformative initiatives whether in or across disciplines or in infrastructure and core facilities. For instance, PIE funding contributed to the development of Stony Brook's winning proposal to develop Governors Island as a hub for climate research, as well as the Center for Distributed Quantum Processing, the Center for Healthy Aging, and interdisciplinary AI. Additionally, the \$100 million appropriation from New York State will enable Stony Brook to build state-of-the-art research facilities. Leveraged by such funding, the University continues to develop its campus, including the new [Institute for Engineering-Driven Medicine](#).

As noted, developing the breadth, depth, diversity, and velocity of the research enterprise is one of four goals identified in the University's strategic plan. An element of this ambition is the intention to double research expenditures within five years. Other specific objectives – and means to this ambitious end – include enhanced support for research-active faculty from recruitment through promotion and retention; facilitating interdisciplinary collaboration especially insofar as they make Stony Brook more competitive for large program and center grants; incentivizing and rewarding more entrepreneurial activity by faculty, staff, and students; and accelerating the development of external engagement with government, industry, and institutional partners. [This site](#) provides more detail of the University's strategy in research.

Please see the [Research and Metrics](#) website for additional data on Stony Brook research.

The Position

The Vice President for Research is the Chief Research Officer/Senior Academic Administrator responsible for the campus-wide advancement of the University's research mission and oversees all services to the University provided by the Research Foundation of the State University of New York ("RF"). The Vice President for Research reports to the President and is the major advocate for the Stony Brook University research enterprise on campus, in the state, nationally, and internationally.

As the University's chief research officer, the VPR is responsible for encouraging and facilitating excellence in scholarship, research and creative activities, and teaching/training and public service as they relate to these purposes. The Vice President for Research advances excellence in the University's research mission by promoting collaborative research as well as scholarly and creative projects guided by the University's strategic plans, encouraging investment in research infrastructure, increasing external funding from major public and private funding sources, advancing translational research that may lead to successful technology transfer and economic development, exploring opportunities for funding in the humanities including interdisciplinary and collaborative possibilities, and ensuring compliance with all applicable laws and regulations related to the responsible conduct of research.

Overseeing a team of approximately 90 professional staff, the VPR is responsible for providing leadership and ongoing professional development of all Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) and Research Foundation staff and for creating an engaging and inclusive team environment. The VPR develops and positions the Office of the Vice President for Research team as trusted, knowledgeable partners and subject-matter experts to the wider University community.

As a campus of the State University of New York, Stony Brook operates its research enterprise in partnership with the [Research Foundation of the State University of New York](#) (RF SUNY), a private, non-profit corporation created as a shared service to support research across the SUNY system. The Foundation is the employer of most of the staff in OVPR including those in pre-award, post-award, and compliance areas. While employees of the Foundation, not of Stony Brook, RF SUNY employees are embedded at Stony Brook and are dedicated to supporting Stony Brook's research programs.

In the course of the 2022-2023 academic year, Stony Brook leaders assessed the University's resources, programs, and output in the area of technology commercialization, innovation, and economic development. As a result of this study, the University created a new position, Chief Innovation Officer, reporting alongside the VPR to the President and other members of the University's leadership team. The University's research program is a key input into potential commercial developments, industry partnerships, and economic impact: the VPR and the Chief Innovation Officer will work closely together to increase interest in, incentives for, and support services related to economic development, with technology commercialization being a particularly important area for synergistic activity.

Key responsibilities:

- Leadership of the research enterprise and advancement of the University's research mission through strategic planning. Serves as advisor to the President, Provost, EVP of Health Sciences, and Deans on the development of the University's research mission and participates as a member of the President's Council
- Supervises all sponsored program, research administration, research development, and compliance activities and functions, and is the contact, either primarily or through a designee, for employee relations and affirmative action/equal employment related to RF personnel on the campus
- Strengthen infrastructure to support basic, translational, and clinical research including contracting, IRB, core facilities, use of the EHR for research, etc.
- Support recruitment of new research faculty through institutional initiatives and NY State programs such as Empire Innovation Program and the New York Fund for Innovation in Research & Scientific Talent ([NYFIRST](#))
- Assist the President and Vice President for Brookhaven National Laboratory Affairs with activities related to Brookhaven Science Associate's management of BNL and increase joint research endeavors between the University and the Laboratory
- Leadership role in fostering multidisciplinary research on campus including, but not limited to, overseeing the Tiger Teams Initiative; managing the University Research Development Fund and the selection for limited competition programs; and forging partnerships with business, industry, government, and other academic and research institutions to expand research and development opportunities; and contributing to the economic growth of the State of New York
- Increase federal, state, private and international support for research, creative teaching/training and public-service activities
- Foster the identification and pursuit of opportunities for research grants in the humanities, including interdisciplinary collaborative opportunities, recognizing the special need for mentoring applicants in these areas in applying for and managing grants
- Contribute to the University's understanding of and response to legislation and rulemaking as they apply to sponsored research; oversee policy and procedure design, implementation, and administration in response to federal mandates and changes to regulations impacting research administration
- Responsible for support and mentoring of faculty and staff in the pursuit of extramural funding for research, creative teaching/training and public service endeavors
- Responsible for service, support, training, and education related to the submission of proposals for extramural funding and the financial and programmatic management of all sponsor-funded activities
- Leadership, strategic direction, and oversight of operations for the Offices of Proposal Development, Sponsored Programs (pre-award), Grants Management (post-award financial), Research Compliance, Research Security, Research IT, Research Strategy, and Partnerships and Innovations
- Oversee and delegate all functions related to the campus operations of The Research Foundation of State University of New York, including the campus distribution of indirect-cost fund allocations
- Oversee all matters related to research compliance, including research misconduct, animal and human subjects research, and export controls. Responsible for administering policies pertaining to

financial conflicts of interest as they relate to research. Oversee all related policies and committees such as IRB, IACUC, Investigator Disclosure Review and Conflict of Interest.

- Serve as University representative to the American Association of Universities, Council on Governmental Relations, Federal Demonstration Partnership, University/Industry Demonstration Partnership, and similar organizations to promote the University as a leader in research

Across all their responsibilities, the VPR will maintain an employee-centered approach and respond to the changing needs and expectations of the University's community with a demonstrated commitment to Stony Brook's mission and values.

Key Challenges and Opportunities

- Promote and enhance a dynamic, ambitious, and collaborative Stony Brook-wide research agenda that builds synergies among areas of the University in pursuit of greater impact and recognition
- Develop a plan and associated resources to catalyze Stony Brook's research enterprise across East and West campuses, identifying and capitalizing on the highest-potential collaborations and working to remove barriers and to change legacy practices, to increase transparency, and to increase shared awareness of current and potential research programs
- Work with academic leaders across Stony Brook to realize this research vision and to create policies and identify investment priorities that are consistent with the University's strategic plan
- Develop a plan for a new University-wide focus on large funding opportunities and recruit and deploy the resources needed to operationalize this plan; coordinate and steward limited-submission programs so that they are competitive and equitable
- Contribute to the University's efforts in diversity, equity, and inclusion by, among things, incentivizing and rewarding the recruitment and retention of faculty, research-support staff, and research subjects, reflective of these values.
- Engage Stony Brook's deans to provide counsel and support for their ongoing development of their faculty's research programs, optimizing the balance of local and central support and ensuring that Office for Research/Research Foundation staff are responsive and supportive; integrate school/college-level research objectives and needs into the University's overarching plans and investments
- Collaborate with deans in the recruitment and retention of high-potential/high-impact research faculty
- Identify opportunities in emerging areas of research and promote interdisciplinary initiatives within Stony Brook and between Stony Brook and external stakeholders, including those in the arts, humanities, and social sciences as well as intersections among these disciplines and STEM fields
- Champion further investment in research core facilities, establishing priorities for enhancement of current cores and emerging areas in which the creation of shared resources will leverage researchers; develop sustainable financial models for Stony Brook's research cores to keep them to meet faculty needs; lead University-wide planning with regard to research facilities and infrastructure, including by coordinating the development of major equipment funding proposals
- Develop new approaches to developing, structuring, and sustaining a broader array of dynamic industry research partnerships

- Provide leadership in areas of ongoing policy development to position Stony Brook with regard to the evolving federal and state regulatory environment, including in rapidly changing domains such as research-data protection and privacy
- Enhance training and career-development programs for research staff across the University

Qualifications

The ideal candidate will be an accomplished professional with exceptional communication skills and notable executive experience leading strategic operations at complex and matrixed organizations. The successful candidate will be a highly collaborative, innovative, inclusive, and solutions-oriented leader who can partner effectively with the President, senior leadership team, and others on campus. They must have a track record of setting strategy and driving results that effectively balances a mandate for change with an understanding of how much change an organization is capable of handling, to create realistic goals and implementation plans that are achievable and successful.

Qualified candidates will possess experience in, and appreciation for, a university's academic environment; the governance structure, roles, and relationships of faculty, staff, and students; and the diverse needs for operational support. Additionally, qualified candidates must work with the highest levels of integrity, honesty, and openness; they must demonstrate flexibility, resilience, and patience; and must be able to create strong and enduring collaborative relationships across the institution.

The VPR should possess senior-level operational and administrative experience in a comparably complex setting, and significant progressively responsible leadership in research, financial planning and management. A record of administrative involvement in the management of sponsored research at a university of school/college level, or in the context of a large research institute or national laboratory, is important. The candidate will have demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout their career.

The successful candidate will have developed and demonstrated the management expertise needed to delegate significant responsibility to staff and to instill a culture of inclusive leadership and exceptional service to the research community.

Required Qualifications:

- Ph.D., M.D., or equivalent terminal degree
- Senior faculty rank in an academic department
- Incumbent should bring a record of significant research accomplishments including as a recipient of major grants and author of peer-reviewed scholarly publications
- A minimum of five years of managerial experience
- Experience in creating and implementing multidisciplinary, interorganizational collaborative research initiatives
- Strategic planning and budgeting experience in a complex environment
- Established relationships with federal science agencies and industry

- Rigorous knowledge of federal research policies and compliance regulations
- Understanding of the federal and state appropriations processes

Preferred Qualifications:

- Success in acquiring large, center-scale grants [10M+]
- Active involvement in research
- 10-plus years of managerial experience
- An established record of achievement in a University with a medical school and health mission
- Professional experience as a researcher and/or administrator in a public-university system
- Experience with intellectual property issues, including patents, licensing, and/or technology transfer, in order to foster early identification of intellectual property and commercialization considerations

To Apply

Stony Brook University has retained Opus Partners (www.opuspartners.net) to support this recruitment. Craig Smith, Partner, and Marisea Rivera, Senior Associate are leading the search. Inquiries, applications, and nominations should be sent to marisea.rivera@opuspartners.net. The search process will unfold with the greatest possible attention to candidate confidentiality. Required application materials include a resume and cover letter. Stony Brook University values diversity, equity, and inclusion and will seek a leader who is committed to promoting these values. You can read more about Stony Brook's efforts [here](#). We encourage candidates to address in their cover letters how they have promoted these values in their career and/or how they would plan to do so in this role.

To learn more about the community and the benefits of working at Stony Brook University, explore [here](#).

Stony Brook University is committed to excellence in diversity and the creation of an inclusive learning and working environment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and all other protected classes under federal or state laws.