



REPORT TO THE UNIVERSITY SENATE

TO: University Senate

FROM: Dennis N. Assanis, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

DATE: April 6, 2015

2015-2016 SUNY High Needs Call

Central to the SUNY Excels performance plan is the State University of New York's commitment to serve as a key engine of revitalization for New York State's economy. One of the many ways in which this commitment is demonstrated is an intentional effort to link SUNY's academic programs, where possible, to specific workforce needs of the state. The High Needs Program has supported these efforts by providing grant support for those professional programs that connect directly to occupations crucial to the economic vitality of New York such as engineering, engineering technology and healthcare.

Prior to 2013, the SUNY High Needs Program distributed almost \$28 million to 28 SUNY campuses, principally to support or expand nursing and engineering programs. In 2013, the High Needs Program became a competitive grant program, subject to the Strategic Enrollment Planning process to align academic program growth with New York State's workforce demands that are in high need. In the past two annual rounds of competitions, Stony Brook has been successful in landing competitive support for our 11 of our proposals, with one-time funding levels between \$50,000 and \$250,000 for each proposal.

For the 2015-2016 call, the program funding is competitive and limited to one year of support for equipment, personnel, and/or marketing for new program development or program expansion. In line with the Chancellor's commitment to Open SUNY—key to both the access and completion focus areas of SUNY Excels—priority for 2015-2016 grants is given to proposals of programs that are 50% or more online, including moving a successful traditional program to an online environment. Additional priority will be given to online programs that promote laddering between and among SUNY campuses, such as 2+2 collaborations between SUNY two- and four-year campuses or linking EOC/ATTAIN programs into Associate degrees. Selected online programs will be included as Open SUNY+ programs and will be provided access to Open SUNY+ supports. Campus proposals must demonstrate how the program will become self-sustaining after the High Needs funding ends. The six statewide high needs areas that SUNY will support with the 2015-16 RFP are: Engineering-Renewable Clean Energy, Healthcare Practitioners and Healthcare Support, Healthcare Technologists/Technicians, Community and Social Service, Information Technology, and Business/Finance. Proposal abstracts for the 2015-2016 SUNY High Needs Program are currently being reviewed by the Office of the Provost, with completed proposals due by April 13, 2015 to the Provost.

Integration of Research, Education and Professional Development (IREP)

Experiential Learning/SUNY Applied Learning: This year, SBU introduced the Stony Brook Curriculum (SBC), which includes an Experiential Learning (EXP+) component. Starting this past fall, Associate Provost Nancy Goroff co-chaired with Susan Scheckel a committee determining how best to implement EXP+. In addition, Marianna Savoca and Nancy Goroff are representing SBU for the SUNY Applied Learning initiative, and we have created a campus-wide Experiential Learning Working Group, including both faculty and staff, as a means to share best practices and disseminate information about SBU and SUNY opportunities and initiatives.

Individual Development Plans (IDPs): Recent changes in regulations at NIH, as well as best-practice recommendation by the American Chemical Society, the Federation of American Societies of Experimental Biology (FASEB), the National Postdoc Association, and others, all focus on encouraging or requiring students and postdocs to create IDPs. An IDP is a personal list of short-term and long-term goals and planned actions for moving toward those goals; it has been described as a "personal strategic plan." We have created a broad on-line IDP Toolkit of templates and resources to help graduate students and postdocs from across all disciplines to develop their IDPs. We have also created an in-person workshop, Planning Your Path, which helps students and postdocs to begin the process of creating a meaningful IDP.

Fulbright competition: Until last spring, the nomination process for outgoing Fulbright proposals was handled by IAPS. The IREP Office took over Fulbrights last spring, began recruiting students to submit applications and provided direct mentoring to the individual students. This fall, we had 14 applicants to Fulbright, double the number from previous years (typically 6-8). Of those 14, 5 were chosen as finalists, compared with 3 in 2014 and an average of only 1 per year from 2008-2013. So far, 4 of this year's finalists have been granted Fulbright awards, with 1 pending. Stony Brook has only had 4 awardees in two previous years: 1988 and 1999. The 2015 awardees and remaining finalist are:

Awardees:

Michelle Chiarappa, Bachelor's, English Teaching Assistant, Turkey
Erica Mukherjee, PhD, History, India
Allyssa Schoenemann, Master's, English Teaching Assistant, Germany
Masra Shameem, Master's, Public Health, India

*Pending:

William Demarest, PhD, History, Venezuela

2015 SBU-BNL Seed Grant Program

President Stanley, with additional support from Brookhaven Science Associates, sponsors the Seed Grant program for joint initiatives between scientists from Stony Brook University, Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory. The Office of Brookhaven National Laboratory Affairs at Stony Brook University administers the program.

The Seed Grant program serves to foster collaborative efforts between scientists at the University and BNL. It is a key element for developing synergistic activities that can grow joint research programs that are aligned with the strategic plans of both institutions. For this seventeenth year, a pool of up to \$200K will be distributed to proposals submitted jointly by SBU and BNL scientists.

Current major strategic initiatives are in energy (smart grid, energy production and storage), high-performance computing, the Joint Photon Science Institute (including structural biology), cosmology and biological/life sciences imaging research. Proposals for enhancements in other BNL-SBU collaborations are also welcome. Successful proposals in areas of high interest to BNL may be eligible for matching funds from BNL.

Winning proposals are typically between \$30k and \$50k. Funds become available on July 1, 2015 and should be expended within 18 months of award; uncommitted funds will be returned to the program. All awardees will be required to provide a brief (two-page) progress report after 12 months and a brief final report (two pages with references) on the results of the project and about the future opportunities that will become available in connection with the project.

The deadline for proposal submissions is Wednesday, April 8, 2015, by 5 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time). Selection of winning proposals will be announced in mid-May 2015. For the 2015 Seed Grant Application, as well as a list of previous winners, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/bnl/opportunities/seed.html>

Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science Hosts NASA FAMELAB Competition

The Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University is hosting a regional heat of the NASA FameLab Competition on April 16-17, 2015 at the Charles B. Wang Center on the Stony Brook campus. This international contest collaborates with Stony Brook University to explore more effective ways to communicate science to the public. Entry into the competition, and reservations to attend the public event, which is free of charge, can be made through the Alan Alda Center.

FameLab is something like American Idol for scientists. Sponsored by NASA in the U.S., it begins with a preliminary day of competition, coaching and camaraderie that is all about science communication. Early career scientists from diverse scientific disciplines craft a three-minute, PowerPoint-free talk on their research or a related topic and deliver it in a supportive environment to judges who give constructive feedback. Participants will spend the afternoon in a unique workshop with faculty from the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, learning two foundational pillars within the Alda Center: improvisation for scientists and distilling your message. Finalists will present their talks to the public on Friday, April 17, 2015 at 4:30 p.m., followed by the announcement of the regional winner and audience choice nominee.

Last year, Stony Brook graduate student, Lyl Tomlinson, won the U.S. challenge and came in second internationally when he competed in England in May. Thanks to Mr. Tomlinson's success in this initiative, Stony Brook was selected to run this regional competition.

Winners from the regional competitions will advance to the U.S. National Final in April 2016, and the winner there goes on to compete with peers from around the world at the FameLab International Final in the UK in June 2016. A total of 25 countries from around the globe participate in the FameLab competition.

For more information on entering the 2015 FameLab competition, please visit the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science website at <http://www.centerforcommunicatingscience.org/enter-the-2015-famelab-usa-competition/>

Earthstock 2015

Stony Brook will host Earthstock, a week-long celebration surrounding environmental awareness and sustainability, from 4/20/15-4/24/15. Stony Brook University is at the vanguard of the sustainability movement. Our commitment to a green future is evident everywhere on our 1,400 acres: from reducing our carbon footprint, to advocating recycling and using recycled materials whenever possible, to promoting alternatively fueled transportation. This week-long, campus-wide event, is free and open to the public. Environmental organizations, participants with an earth-friendly message, and local schools will celebrate on the Academic Mall, Friday, April 24, 2015.

On Friday, April 24, 2015, at 7:30 p.m. in the Wang Center Theater, Dr. Carl Safina will deliver the keynote address for this year's Earthstock festivities. Fisheries, coral reefs, forests, climate change, poverty, literacy for girls, and peace—these are all facets of the same issue. Drawing on two acclaimed recent books—*The View From Lazy Point* and *A Sea In Flames*—scientist/author, Dr. Carl Safina, weaves a story that is both deeply personal and broadly global. Sharing travels that take us from his Long Island beach house to the high Arctic, Antarctica, and across the coastal tropics, he shows how the changes he's witnessed challenge not just nature but all of humankind. Safina will also discuss how science has ethical implications, how religion and science are converging toward a common cause on environmental matters, and how moral responses can add momentum toward increasingly crucial solutions.

For more information on SBU's 2015 Earthstock program, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/earthstock/>

Admitted Students Day

Admitted students, and their families, are invited to campus on Saturday, April 11, 2015 to meet with faculty, students and staff to learn more about our campus and life at Stony Brook. Guided walking tours of our campus and residence halls will be ongoing throughout the day. We will host approximately 1,600 new students who will attend with their parents and/or family members. For additional information, including a schedule of events, please visit <http://www.stonybrook.edu/commcms/admitted/asd>

Emeritus Faculty Association Luncheon

The annual emeritus faculty association luncheon will be held on Friday, May 1, 2015 at 12.00 p.m. in the Wang Chapel. We are honored to address our distinguished emeritus faculty and thank them for their continued involvement with the University. We are also privileged to have as the event speaker Visiting Presidential Professor, Carl Bernstein, a true American icon. Our emeritus faculty will be very fortunate to have the opportunity to experience this presentation by, and pose questions to, this legendary reporter, commentator and historian. Few journalists in America's history have had the impact on their era and their craft that Carl Bernstein has had. For 40 years—from *All the President's Men* to *A Woman in Charge: The Life of Hillary Rodham Clinton*—Bernstein's books, reporting and commentary have revealed the inner workings of government and politics, and the hidden stories of Washington and its leaders. In the early 1970s, Bernstein and Bob Woodward broke the Watergate story for *The Washington Post*, leading to the resignation of President Richard Nixon and setting the standard for modern investigative reporting, for which they and *The Post* were awarded the Pulitzer Prize. Bernstein's career has had a continued focus on the use and abuse of power—political, media, financial and cultural. He has written and lectured extensively about government and politics, and the role and responsibilities of the American press.