



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Leading the Future of AI: SBU Marries Human Ingenuity with Machines



Steve Skiena and Stony Brook students shape the future of AI.

transformative industry that is accelerating so quickly that it's touching on almost every aspect of our world, from how we learn to how we live and work," said [Fotis Sotiropoulos](#), Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences ([CEAS](#)).

Stony Brook University has taken on the challenge of understanding AI's implications while harnessing its potential, leveraging the powerfully trending technology to create groundbreaking changes in research and development. These innovations reach across every discipline, from the medical to business schools, while also redefining how the University is approaching preparing students for the future.

[Read the full story](#)

[Read about SBU's Institute for AI-Driven Discovery and Innovation](#)

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Up in Albany

Senator Todd Kaminsky Visits Campus

New York State [Senator Todd Kaminsky](#) (D-Long Beach) recently visited campus to meet with President Stanley and Judith Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and Sr. VP for Government and Community Relations. Stony Brook Council President Kevin Law also joined the meeting. President Stanley



(L-R): Stony Brook Council President Kevin Law, NYS Sen. Todd Kaminsky, and Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky.

provided an overview of the University and the two had a discussion on the University's budget priorities for this year's legislative session. Following the meeting, Senator Kaminsky met with Dr. Kenneth Kaushansky, Sr. VP for Health Sciences and Dean of the [School of Medicine](#), for a tour of the Medical and Research Translation ([MART](#)) building and the new [Stony Brook Children's Hospital](#).

Governor Cuomo Releases his Executive Budget and 2019 Justice Agenda

[Governor Andrew Cuomo](#) released his [Executive Budget for the 2019/20 fiscal year](#) and his [2019 "Justice Agenda."](#) Below is a summary of the budget highlights pertaining to higher education, economic development, healthcare and other areas. This is the first step in the budget process. In the coming weeks, the Senate and Assembly will submit their own budgets and the three will negotiate to meet the state's budget deadline on April 1st.

Salary increase funds: Seeks to fund one year of retroactive negotiated salary increases to mitigate the impact of collective bargaining agreements on campuses.

SBU Capital funding: Provides \$23M for SBU's critical maintenance needs (a \$25M reduction from 18/19); provides \$50M in new capital for Stony Brook Hospital.

Student issues: Seeks to pass the DREAM Act, extend the human rights law to all students; continues the Excelsior scholarship program with final phase-in raising income limit to \$125K, and continues Predictable Tuition program.

Opportunity Programs: Eliminates the legislative add-on funding for various programs including EOP and ATTAIN.

Procurement Oversight: Allows the State Comptroller pre-approval for all SUNY contracts above \$250K, but the review must be completed within 30 days or it is automatically approved.

Hospitals: Does not include operating aid for SUNY hospitals; seeks to raise the cap on Disproportionate Share Hospital (DSH) reimbursement level so SUNY hospitals are 100% reimbursed. (DSH is essential to public safety-net hospitals like Stony Brook that serve low-income communities.)

Infrastructure Improvements: Provides a five-year plan to spend \$150B for infrastructure improvements across the state including \$13B to improve and maintain SUNY and CUNY buildings.

Economic Development: Includes \$750M for Regional Economic Development Councils and allows SUNY campuses to apply for funding; adds \$325M for High-Tech Innovation and Economic Development Infrastructure; Centers of Excellence and Centers for Advanced Technology are funded at \$872K each.

Healthcare: Seeks to codify the NYS Affordable Care Act and the state's Health Insurance Marketplace; fights the opioid epidemic; raises the age to buy cigarettes to 21 and requires a study on nurse staffing ratios.

Environment: \$10B to support clean water infrastructure, renewable energy and clean transportation and \$2.5B for clean water initiatives including shellfish programs.

Diversity: Seeks to allow SUNY to hire up to 1,000 new faculty over the next ten years with the goal of diversifying campus faculties. *Immigrant Rights:* Seeks to pass the DREAM Act and prohibit state agencies from inquiring about immigration services.

LGBTQ Rights: Seeks to pass Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) and ban conversion therapy.

For a listing of some of Stony Brook University's legislative and budget priorities, please click [here](#).

For information about any of the above or other questions about the budget process, please call Michael Arens in the office of Government and Community Relations at 631-632-6302 or e-mail

On the Hill

SBU's Powerful Advocacy Impact



Nicole Sampson, Distinguished Professor of Chemistry and Interim Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, briefed New York Congressional delegation staff in Washington, D.C. on SBU's quantum research and the importance of funding science.

Stony Brook students, faculty and researchers are among the most effective advocates in advancing critical priorities such as investment in higher education, student financial aid, and scientific research. Sharing your personal stories and work, you can demonstrate the real-life impact of choices that policymakers can make.

Meetings with policymakers and their staff can result in valuable outcomes when a thoughtful and strategic advocacy approach is used. Alternatively, the wrong approach to advocacy can result in setbacks.

Embrace the opportunity you have to make a difference, use a [successful approach](#) to advocacy, and familiarize yourself with [federal](#) and [state](#) lobbying compliance.

[Learn more](#)

Department of Energy to Provide \$45 Million for Chemical and Materials Research in

Quantum Information Science



On January 16, the U.S. Department of Energy ([DOE](#)) announced plans to provide \$45 million for new research in chemical and materials sciences aimed at advancing the important emerging field of Quantum Information Science (QIS). A wide-ranging multidisciplinary area of research, QIS is expected to lay the foundation for the next generation of computing and information processing, as well as an array of other innovative technologies in sensing and related applications.

[Read the full story](#)

Dental Researchers Receive NIH Grants to Advance Bone Regeneration Technology, Periodontal Disease Diagnostics

Stony Brook University [School of Dental Medicine](#) researchers are going high-tech to help solve some of the world's leading oral health problems. Two projects totaling approximately \$2 million in grant funding are being funded by the National Institute of Dental & Craniofacial Research ([NIDCR](#)) of the National Institutes of Health ([NIH](#)).

One of the research projects seeks to advance a bone scaffold technology as a potential treatment for patients who have bone loss in and around the mouth due to conditions such as cancer, trauma, infections, congenital defects and tooth loss. The other project is using oral fluids to identify biomarkers that may help detect periodontal disease and dental resorption early in the disease process.

[Read the full story](#)



Dr. Srinivas Myneni (left) and Dr. David Lam of Stony Brook School of Dental Medicine illustrate the potential use and placement of a nanomaterial-based bone regeneration device.

In Our Community

Black History Month at Stony Brook University

The [Black History Month](#) Opening Program at Stony Brook University took place on Wednesday, February 6, and featured Chef Kwame Onwuachi from Bravo's *Top Chef*. Various campus organizations will be hosting a range of educational, social and cultural programs that focus on the campus' theme for the month, Sankofa! Blackness is Endless.



Sankofa is an Akan language of Ghana that translates in English to "return and get it," and has been the enduring theme over the years for Black History Month at Stony Brook. Sankofa is used throughout the pan-African world to promote the idea that African people must go back to their roots in order to move forward.

[Read more](#)



Allison Shaw in Ghana

It's "Mission Accomplished" for Service-Minded Student

Few freshmen arrive at Stony Brook with the life experience that Allison Shaw has accrued. The Hasbrouck Heights, New Jersey native, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Engineering degree in chemical and molecular engineering, spent two parts of two summers building bridges of hope for the children of Ghana at the Mephibosheth Training Center in Ankamu.

[Read the full story](#)

SBU Faculty Mentor 18 Regeneron Science Talent Search Scholars

Out of the 300 scholars selected this year from 1,964 entries for the [Regeneron Science Talent Search \(STS\)](#) - the prestigious science and math competition for high school students - 18 did research with Stony Brook mentors from the departments/areas of: Anatomical Sciences; Applied Mathematics and Statistics; Biochemistry and Cell Biology; Chemistry; Civil Engineering; Computer Science; Ecology and Evolution; Family, Population and Preventive Medicine; Geosciences; Pharmacological Sciences; Radiology; Surgery; and the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences.

[Read the full story](#)

Building a Pathway for Diversity in STEM Education

Increasing diversity in engineering and technology is a key initiative at Stony Brook University. Fotis Sotiropoulos, Dean of the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences, highlighted these efforts during his recent [State of the College address](#). For example, the percentage of women enrolled in the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences has increased from 20% to 25%, well above the national average.

"The programs we have in place targeting K-12 students in high-needs schools, as well as undergraduate and graduate students at Stony Brook, are key building blocks in constructing a diversity pathway in STEM," states Dean Sotiropoulos. "Embracing a variety of backgrounds, ideas and perspectives makes our College stronger and fuels the innovation pipeline in today's science and technology-driven economy."

[Read the full story](#)



Gabrielle Paniccia '19 does hands-on research through the WISE program.

Upcoming Events

Saturday, February 9, 2019

Men's Basketball vs. UMass Lowell

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Black History Month: Spoken Word/ Open Mic Contest

Friday, February 22, 2019

Stony Brook Opera Presents Dido and Aeneas

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

Black History Month Closing Ceremony

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