



Department of Psychology

April 17, 2020

Dear OVPR Seed Grant Committee:

This project titled “*Effect of The Coronavirus (COVID-19) Pandemic on the Academic, Career, Mental, Psychosocial, and Physical Functioning of the SBU Community*” represents a collaboration within the College of Arts and Sciences among faculty and graduate students in the Department of Psychology. SBU Psychology Department faculty have expertise spanning cognitive, clinical, developmental, health, and social psychology. Given the unprecedented nature and wide-ranging effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, we formed a core 6-faculty collaborative team to ensure the successful implementation of the study at every stage of the project. Our team has extensive experience with longitudinal studies including with this project’s sample and has collective expertise in mental and physical health, academic and career achievement, lifespan issues, coping and stress, relationships, productivity, and interactions with technology. The team includes the department’s three Assistant Professors --PIs Brady Nelson (Clinical), Lauren Richmond (Cognitive Science), and Jessica Schleider (Clinical) -- who are being assisted by co-PIs -- Bonita London (Assoc. Prof. and Director of the Master’s Program, Social & Health), Sheri Levy (Chair and Prof., Social & Health), and Dan Klein (Distinguished Prof. and Associate Chair, Clinical). This core team has successfully launched the baseline survey and will continue to direct the longitudinal project along with other department members. Below is a project summary.

Project Summary: The primary goal of this longitudinal study is to develop a model for understanding the academic, career, cognitive, emotional, psychosocial, and physical consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic in the short and long term. This project leverages the diverse Stony Brook University community, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, staff, and faculty, as a testbed for a generalizable model of how this pandemic impacts the higher education climate. The COVID-19 pandemic is the largest, most socially- and economically- pervasive collective trauma most people in the U.S. have experienced in their lifetimes. This, coupled with NY being the most heavily-affected area in the world at the moment, makes this an especially critical target to study. The unprecedented nature and impact of the present pandemic (e.g., social distancing, campus closures, shift to online instruction, child and elder care responsibilities, family job loss, and death), requires a comprehensive and systematic study to assess and model the widespread impact on academic, career, emotional, psychosocial, and physical outcomes. With an OVPR seed grant, this longitudinal multi-wave 12-month project will provide a unique opportunity to leverage psychological research methodologies for studying academic, career, emotional, psychosocial, and physical outcomes (including inequalities) among an ethnically/racially- and age-diverse sample.

Thank you for considering our submission.

Sincerely,

PIs: Brady Nelson, Lauren Richmond, Jessica Schleider

Co-PIs: Bonita London, Sheri Levy, and Dan Klein