

A LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

From Stony Brook University President Samuel L. Stanley Jr.



For the past few years, I've written to Stony Brook's nearest neighbors to share information about campus matters impacting their lives. This semester, I am shifting to an open letter format to share news about what's happening at the University with those of you beyond our immediate neighborhood.

Since 2011, the passage of NYSUNY 2020 legislation has given students and their families the ability to plan for the cost of a college education. The stable, predictable tuition meant there would be no surprises or great spikes in price. It also meant the campus could plan for and make use of the predictability of the revenue stream.

Stony Brook has accomplished much under NYSUNY 2020, including hiring 246 new full-time faculty; adding 685 new course sections; creating new degree and advanced certificate programs; and improving the student-to-faculty ratio and four-year graduation rate.

While Governor Cuomo supported this successful initiative in his budget proposal, I was disappointed that the final budget adopted by the Legislature did not include the extension of NYSUNY 2020. I am hopeful that it will be included in next year's budget.

In early March we shared a new draft diversity plan with the campus community, which addresses concerns expressed by students, faculty and staff of different races, ages, religions, genders, abilities and sexual orientations. Our goal is to improve how we embrace our diversity and become a more welcoming campus for all. You can read the draft at stonybrook.edu/diversityplan.

Safety continues to be an area of focus for the campus community, and there have been noteworthy improvements on that front. I am pleased to report that Senator John Flanagan secured \$1 million for new sidewalks, turning lanes and improved traffic control on Stony Brook Road from Oxhead Road to the Research and Development Park. The Brookhaven Town Highway Department, under the leadership of Superintendent Dan Losquadro, will contribute \$600,000 and manage this pedestrian and traffic safety project. My thanks to them and to Assemblyman Steve Englebright and Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine for their support and efforts on this important project.

The housing conversation is constantly improving, thanks in part to the collaborative effort of Stony Brook staff, Supervisor Romaine and his team, Councilwoman Valerie Cartright, the Stony Brook Concerned Homeowners organization and the Suffolk County Police Department 6th Precinct. We are working together with students and property owners to ensure safe and legal rentals and respect for our neighbors.

We know that many community members would like to see even more housing on campus, and we are in the process of developing apartment-style housing for upper-level undergraduates. These additional 173 beds, together with those in our new residence hall on John S. Toll Drive, will bring our total on campus to 10,600, which far surpasses that of any other SUNY campus and is second only to New York University among colleges in New York.

As a reminder, the campus has joined more than 1,000 colleges and universities across the nation in becoming tobacco-free. The tobacco-free policy fosters respect for others and keeps our campus environment clean and free from the harmful effects of tobacco products. Please help us in this effort by not smoking when you attend cultural, athletic and other events on campus.

We invite you to visit our campus and take in all that Stony Brook has to offer — from thought-provoking lectures to athletic competitions, from performances and art installations to quiet walks on the wooded paths. Stony Brook is a diverse and imaginative community, and we're proud of all that we're doing that will have a positive impact across our community, our region and our world for generations to come. We hope you share that Seawolf pride.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. L. Stanley Jr." The signature is fluid and cursive.

Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD
President, Stony Brook University



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