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MEMORANDUM

TO: University Senate
FROM: Andrea Goldsmith, President
Date: May 4, 2026
SUBJECT: President's Report

Executive Summary

University News

- **Goldsmith Inauguration:** Inauguration Week commenced at Stony Brook Southampton with a fireside chat between President Goldsmith and SUNY Chancellor John B. King Jr. The week featured an extensive series of discussions, including a climate expert panel at The Morgan Library and Museum in New York City, an exploration of AI during the SUNY AI Symposium, and sessions highlighting women in leadership, women in engineering, and innovation and entrepreneurship. President Goldsmith also spent a day on East Campus, which highlighted excellence across Stony Brook Medicine, and she celebrated with students, including at the ceremonial planting of a magnolia tree to symbolize growth and new beginnings. She also delivered a technical talk featuring her research on wireless communications and interviewed her close friend, mentor, and Stony Brook alum, John Hennessy. Following this weeklong series of events highlighting her vision and aspirations for the university, President Goldsmith was officially installed as the seventh president of the State University of New York at Stony Brook President on Saturday, April 18.
- **ASPIRE 2035:** During her investiture address, President Goldsmith shared aspirational goals for Stony Brook over the next decade using the acronym **ASPIRE**: **A**ccelerating discovery to solve humanity's greatest challenges; **S**etting a new standard for educational excellence, access, and student success; **P**ropelling Stony Brook to a position of visionary global leadership; **I**gniting regional prosperity; **R**eimagining medicine, health, and wellness for all; and **E**nabling the foundations of our success.

- **Strategic Planning:** The strategic planning work is not complete. Over the next several months, President Goldsmith and her leadership team will continue to refine these ambitious goals and will develop a plan for implementation to include actions, tactics, and measures of success.
- **Undergraduate Student Government:** On April 9, the Undergraduate Student Government hosted a senate meeting open to all students as an opportunity to engage directly with President Goldsmith on topics important to the student body.
- **University Senate:** On April 30, President Goldsmith and University Senate President Brenda Anderson hosted a “Year in Review” conversation as an opportunity for faculty and staff to hear from senate and university leaders about the work they have led over the past year to advance the mission of Stony Brook University.

State and Local Government Relations Update

- **State Budget Update:** The State Budget, which was due April 1, has yet to be finalized. Negotiations are ongoing, and many of the issues of importance to Stony Brook, including funding for capital and operating aid, will not be addressed until some of the more complex matters are agreed to. The collective efforts of faculty, staff, and students who joined local elected officials in advocating for additional capital funding has helped increase the visibility of this important investment.

Federal Government Relations Update

- **Advocacy in Washington, D.C.:** On April 28, President Goldsmith met with members of the New York congressional delegation, reinforcing Stony Brook’s priorities and strengthening key federal partnerships at a critical moment in the funding cycle.
- **“Conversation with the President” – Washington, D.C.:** On April 28, President Goldsmith will convene a special gathering of D.C.-based alumni, partners, and stakeholders. This engagement provides a valuable opportunity to deepen relationships, share the university’s vision and strategic direction, and elevate the voices and experiences of the Stony Brook community.
- **Looking Ahead:** On May 5, Interim Vice President for Research and Innovation Mónica Bugallo will join fellow SUNY VPRs and SUNY central research leadership in D.C. for meetings with federal science agency leaders. These discussions will focus on advocating for robust federal research funding and providing updates on SUNY’s research priorities and impact.

Advancement

- Since the start of this fiscal year on July 1, 2025, we have secured \$128.3 million in gifts and pledges for all purposes – a 52.8% increase over the \$84 million raised at the same point last fiscal year.
- This momentum is also reflected in the number of major gifts the University has received. To date, we have received 174 major gifts of \$100,000 or more, compared to 124 at this time one year ago. This support includes:
 - 42 gifts of \$500,000 to \$999,999 (29 a year ago)
 - 24 gifts of \$1 million or more (19 a year ago)
- Notable gifts closed since the last update include:
 - \$108,000 for Stony Brook Basketball

- \$100,200 for the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science Endowment
- \$100,200 for the President's Fund for Excellence
- \$100,000 for Stony Brook Ophthalmology

Athletics

- Women's Lacrosse is ranked No. 9 in the nation after winning the school's fourth straight CAA title and 13th consecutive overall. Junior midfielder Isabella Caporuscio earned CAA Midfielder of the Year honors for the second straight season while sophomore Hailey Huebner was named CAA Defensive Player of the Year and freshman Mirabella Altebrando was named CAA Rookie of the Year.
- The Tewaaron Foundation announced Stony Brook's Isabella Caporuscio as one of 25 nominees for the prestigious Tewaaron Award. Caporuscio officially becomes the 11th Seawolf to be named a top 25 nominee for the prestigious award.
- Men's Lacrosse closed out the regular season with a 28-7 win over Hampton to tie a program record for goals in a game while earning the No. 3 seed in the CAA conference tournament. Freshman defender Kyan East was named CAA Co-Rookie of the Year.
- Stony Brook student-athletes Natalia Chornomidza (Women's Swimming & Diving), Caitlin Frost (Women's Basketball) and Grace Weigele (Women's Cross Country) were all honored with SUNY Scholar Athlete of the Year awards for combining academic achievement with success in the arena of athletic competition during the 2025-26 winter season.
- Giving Day 2026 saw 498 unique donors contribute 564 gifts to raise \$211,219 towards enhancing the athletic experience for Seawolves' student-athletes. These investments are instrumental in fostering a culture of excellence, empowering our student-athletes to achieve their fullest potential and represent Stony Brook with pride and distinction. Stony Brook Athletics' 498 unique donors accounted for 12 percent of the University's total participation and the more than \$200,000 raised represented 27 percent of the total money raised across the entire University.

Human Resources

- Led by HR Operations, the four HR organizations impacted by the adoption of Oracle HCM (Wolfie One) - HR Operations, University HR, Stony Brook Hospital and Long Island Veterans Home - continue to work closely with implementation partner, Deloitte, to provide detailed input to the configuration of Oracle Human Capital Management modules. Design reviews expected in June.
- Jane Savage, VP for HR, announced changes in the HR leadership structure to reflect a commonly deployed HR service delivery model, with the following HR senior leaders and functions:
 - Jon Castoro, Director, HR Business Partners (supporting departments and schools)
 - Kenya Lewis-Brewer, Assistant Vice President for Employee Experience & Organizational Development (Learning & Development, Employee Engagement, Wellness & Benefits)
 - Juliette Lowery, Assistant Vice President for Employee & Labor Relations
 - Jenn Rossler, Sr. Director, Talent Acquisition and People Systems Initiatives (hiring and HR's adoption of new technology such as Oracle)

- B.J. Steen, Interim Sr. Director, Compensation & Classification
- As recommended as part of HR Now, HR hired a new Assistant Director for Talent Acquisition, Tracy Lymus, responsible for improving the hiring process and hiring manager and candidate experience.
- HR hosted Employee Appreciation Day on March 6, 2026, with more than 650 attending, and the Seawolf Shuffle 5K during the President's Inauguration events, with more than 500 participating.

Innovation

LIMEP Renewal

(Foundational Pillar: Catalyze)

A proposal to continue the Long Island Manufacturing Extension Partnership was successfully renewed through a highly competitive process. This award allows SBU to continue its efforts to support and strengthen manufacturing expertise on Long Island for at least the next five years.

Partnering for Robotics in Manufacturing Listening Session

(Foundational Pillar: Catalyze)

LIMEP and CEWIT, in partnership with state authorities, hosted a listening session on April 28 with regional manufacturing leaders to identify opportunities to support robotics based technology applications.

CEWIT Hack-A-Thon

(Foundational Pillar: Accelerate)

The 3rd Annual CEWIT High School Hackathon took place on April 23, 2026. Hosted in the CEWIT building and supported by a generous grant from Verizon, more than 100 regional high school students participated in a hackathon focused on deploying AI to support resilience.

R&D Park Utilization Review

(Foundational Pillar: Catalyze)

An R&D campus space advisory committee has been created in partnership with SBU leadership to identify and recommend high priority opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship, and to help guide the strategic use of space in support of SBU's goals.

Marketing and Communications

- Office of the President – Presidential Inauguration: Executed a fully integrated communications campaign for the Presidential Inauguration of President Andrea Goldsmith, delivering coordinated, real-time coverage across X, Threads, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Instagram, supported by on-site photo, video, and interviews. Produced preview stories, homepage features, SBU News coverage, and targeted emails to drive awareness and attendance for key events, including the Southampton kickoff, Fireside Chat with SUNY Chancellor John King, innovation panels, and the Investiture Ceremony. Amplification across SBU and SUNY channels generated more than 150,000 engagements for Investiture content and 97,000 for the Fireside Chat, with SBU News reaching 24,000+ subscribers. Secured national and regional media placements (WNBC, Newsday, CBS,

FOX5), supported interviews, and produced b-roll. Delivered livestreams with closed captioning to ensure accessibility. Completed all event materials and initiated post-event deliverables, including a Week in Review and highlight video.

- Title II / ADA Compliance Mandate: Advanced implementation of the Title II / ADA digital accessibility mandate, launching 22 compliant websites and progressing migration of approximately 150 additional sites. Began retiring outdated web assets to improve compliance and reduce risk. Expanded accessibility planning for video (captioning, transcription, audio description), including vendor analysis (~\$16/minute) and prioritization of high-impact content. Partnered with IT, Digital Services, and Video Production to establish sustainable workflows, while continuing campus support through consultations, technical guidance, and ADA advisory efforts.
- Purposeful Storytelling & Amplification Across PESO (Paid, Earned, Shared & Owned) Media: Increased research visibility through targeted amplification of NASA Artemis participation, AI ecosystem development, and non-opioid pain therapies, securing placements in Discover Magazine and SUNY Research 360°, and expanding engagement across Research & Innovation channels. Delivered integrated paid campaigns supporting Spring Enrollment, State of the Bays, and Southampton programming across Meta, Google, OTT/CTV, and programmatic platforms, while implementing centralized workflows to improve coordination. Expanded internal engagement through Be Connected Update, Let's Talk Newsletters, and campus initiatives (Earthstock, Roth Regatta, Campus Beautification), while advancing brand campaigns including the Wolfie Pop-Up and new messaging territories. Coordinated expert placements on timely topics (AI, environmental issues, economic trends), securing coverage in Newsday and beyond.
- Enrollment / Admissions: Advanced Spring and Summer 2026 enrollment through targeted, multi-channel campaigns, including the April 16 Spring Enrollment launch across paid social, OTT/CTV, audio, and search, with messaging focused on brand, location, and affordability. Executed Peer Campaign outreach, including Provost mailers and targeted emails with detailed quality control. Supported Southampton initiatives through PESO strategies promoting the Writers Conference, Emerging Writers Workshop, oceanography courses, and youth programs. Delivered campaigns for State of the Bays (April 24) and Sea to Soil (May 1), contributing to a sold-out event (400+ attendees) and increased media visibility. Partnered with Enrollment Management and Student Affairs to support deposit deadlines, Visit Days, and Commencement engagement, strengthening yield and prospective student engagement.
- Issues Management and (On-Call) Crisis Communications: Provided ongoing issues management and crisis communications support during a high-visibility period, including Inauguration Week, campus demonstrations, and increased media activity. Delivered real-time coordination, executive counsel, and messaging across multiple scenarios. Supported communications for campus demonstrations, including GSEU activity, and managed follow-up inquiries from outlets such as The Statesman. Maintained alignment with SUNY Communications and leadership, while monitoring media and social sentiment to mitigate risk and protect institutional reputation. Reinforced MARCOM's role as a strategic partner, ensuring readiness, consistency, and effective execution.

Research

Genesis Mission

(Foundational Pillars: Build, Catalyze)

- SBU researchers have responded with strong engagement and exceptional momentum in preparation for the Genesis Mission, reflecting a broad and highly competitive institutional effort.
- The RFA was released on March 17, 2026, with anticipated funding of \$293 million to support AI driven solutions across 26 national challenges. Several amendments have followed, including an extension of the original deadline to May 1.
- Given the structure of the opportunity, which allows only one proposal per focus area, the University conducted an internal, peer reviewed limited competition to identify and advance the strongest submissions.
- The compressed timeline and demanding requirements of the program have been widely noted. For example, Science highlighted these challenges in the following article:
<https://www.science.org/content/article/departement-energy-s-ai-push-squeezes-funding-research-grants>

Seed Grants

(Foundational Pillar: Build)

Just a reminder that the OR&I seed grant program deadline is May 14. Also, the SBU BNL seed grant call has been released and has a deadline of June 4. These are valuable resources to pursue new research concepts and collaborations.

Request for Information (RFIs)

(Foundational Pillar: Build)

As federal agencies increasingly utilize Requests for Information (RFIs) to shape policy and funding priorities; our office has formalized a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to strategically manage our engagement. This framework allows us to identify high impact RFIs and determine the most effective response method. We currently utilize two primary engagement models:

- Institutional Responses: For broad solicitations, such as the DOE Genesis Mission, we facilitate a cross functional response, aggregating input from faculty researchers and University Council members to present a unified institutional position.
- Individual Responses: For solicitations where individual faculty feedback is preferred, such as the upcoming NIH Strategic Plan, we provide a boilerplate template. This ensures key institutional priorities are consistently represented in individual submissions, thereby amplifying our collective voice.

SUNY DC Day

(Foundational Pillar: Build)

SUNY is organizing a visit to Washington, DC on May 5, bringing together leaders from Offices of Research and Innovation across the SUNY system to meet with agency leaders and elected officials and advocate for SUNY researchers. The current agenda includes interactions with representatives from NSF TIP Directorate, DOE Basic Sciences, the Department of Commerce, and ARPA E.

Student Affairs

- Throughout April, Stony Brook hosted a rich array of educational and cultural events celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month, honoring the diverse traditions and contributions of people of Asian descent. Programming included lectures, dance and music performances, culinary demonstrations, and more.

- The campus marked its third annual Arab American Heritage Month celebration, spotlighting the diverse identities and experiences within Stony Brook's Arab American community.
- On April 22, Stony Brook hosted its fourth annual Pride Fest Block Party. While Pride Month is nationally celebrated in June, Stony Brook holds its festivities in April so students can participate before the academic year concludes. The event featured games, music, arts and crafts, giveaways, and a drag performance.
- Earthstock, Stony Brook's beloved Earth Day week-long celebration, was a resounding success this year. The event featured programming centered on sustainability, environmental awareness, and conservation – including the fan-favorite duck race at the Brook. This year's keynote speaker was Dr. Patricia Wright, Distinguished Service Professor, Herrnstein Professor of Conservation Biology, and Founder and Director of both the Centre ValBio Research Station in Madagascar and the Institute for Conservation of Tropical Environments.
- On Friday, May 1, students took to Roth Pond for the Roth Regatta – one of campus's most beloved and unique traditions – competing in handmade boats constructed from nothing but cardboard, duct tape, and paint.

Events to highlight:

- Student Life Awards - Thursday, May 7, 6 pm. Student Activities Center, Ballroom A
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/12235834>
- Cap and Gown Brunch - Tuesday, May 19, 1 pm. The Shore Club
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/11963114>
- Lavender Celebration - Thursday, May 20, 6 pm. Student Activities Center, Ballroom A
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/12432860>
- Kushinda Celebration - Friday, May 21, 5 pm. Student Activities Center Ballroom A
<https://stonybrook.campuslabs.com/engage/event/12368782>