



CAPITOLS *and* COMMUNITIES



NEWS FROM THE OFFICE OF GOVERNMENT AND COMMUNITY RELATIONS



A Message From Judith B. Greiman

*Chief Deputy to the President and Vice President for Government and
Community Relations*

Stony Brook University is always finding new ways to communicate with its various constituencies. We hope you will enjoy this first newsletter from the Office of Government and Community Relations. Here you will find important information on federal and state university advocacy efforts, community happenings and upcoming events.

We plan to share with you timely information about our priorities and key data about Stony Brook. We will share updates about our efforts to foster community in our region.

We look forward to keeping you informed via *Capitols and Communities* as Stony Brook University continues on its exciting journey of leadership in the world of cutting-edge research, education and discovery.

Sincerely,

[Up in Albany](#)

[On the Hill](#)

[In Our Community](#)

Up in Albany

STUDENTS, UNIVERSITY LEADERSHIP SUPPORT
NYSUNY 2020 EXTENSION

As the April 1 New York State budget deadline approaches, the Office of Government Relations has been advocating for Stony Brook's [legislative priorities](#), which include an extension of [NYSUNY 2020](#) and an overdue increase in critical maintenance funding. We also support an extension of the SUNY Flex Contracting Law, which is set to expire this June. The SUNY Flex Contracting Law gives all SUNY campuses the ability to streamline the process for common purchases and contracts. Throughout March, President Samuel L. Stanley Jr., MD and student groups will travel to Albany to meet with legislative leaders and members.

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY ACCOMPLISHMENTS UNDER NYSUNY 2020

IMPROVED GRADUATION RATES



Governor Cuomo Launches Statewide Water Quality Initiatives

At a February 18 event at Stony Brook University, New York State Governor Andrew M. Cuomo announced a series of aggressive water quality initiatives aimed at protecting public health and the environment.

[Read the full story](#)



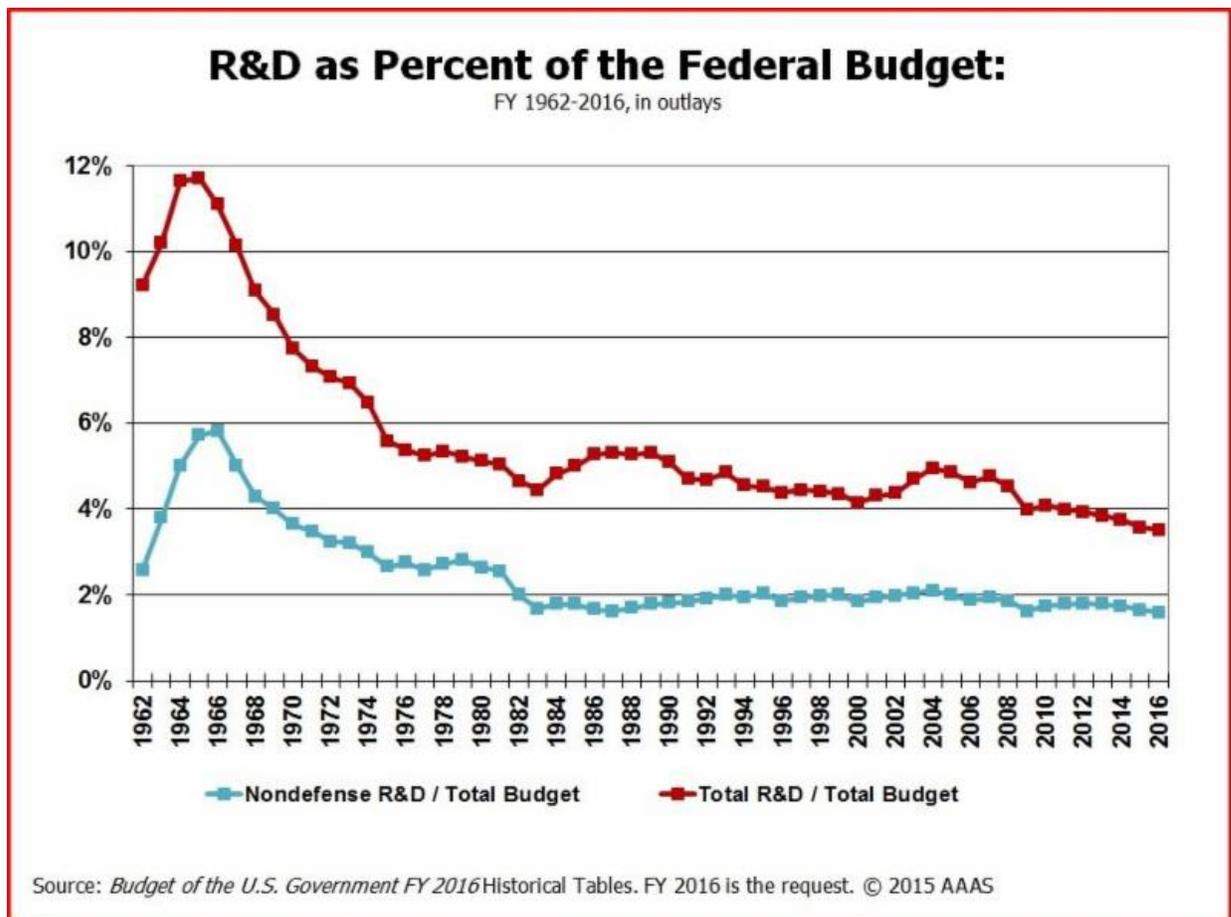
Judith B. Greiman, Chief Deputy to the President and Vice President of Government and Community Relations, welcomes Governor

On the Hill

FY 2017 Federal Budget Update - New Mandatory Spending Proves Problematic

Following the announcement of President Obama's [Fiscal Year 2017 budget](#), [House](#) and [Senate](#) appropriations committees face serious challenges as they begin their FY 2017 hearings with federal agency heads. While [FY 2017 discretionary spending is well above that of the sequester level, it is essentially flat from FY 2016](#). Meanwhile, new mandatory spending actually accounts for most of the spending increase in the FY 2017 research and development (R&D) budget, which many members of the science and higher education communities believe will be [difficult to pass through Congress](#).

The total [National Science Foundation budget](#) is up 6.7 percent from FY 2016 levels, but this includes a discretionary increase of only 1.3 percent.



Stony Brook University is working closely with fellow members of the higher education community to secure increased federal funding for R&D and higher education programs, as outlined in the [Association of American Universities' priorities chart](#).

AAU Highlights Stony Brook as Leader in Water Quality Research



Dr. Hsiao meets with Kenyan children.

The Association of American Universities (AAU) recently featured Stony Brook Professor [Benjamin S. Hsiao](#) and his team on AAU's [Helping Solve the Fresh Water Puzzle](#) webpage. Hsiao and his team are researching two innovative solutions to provide drinking water at the University's [Turkana Basin Institute](#) in northern Kenya by using Hsiao's breakthrough nanofibrous membrane technologies powered by gravity or solar heat.

In Our Community



Stony Brook Approved for Blood Transfusions on Ambulances

Stony Brook University Hospital is making strides in saving lives on the go - the academic medical center's ambulance service is the first emergency medical services provider in New York State to be approved as an ambulance transfusion service, which administers blood components during transport from one hospital to another.

[Read the full story](#)

Black History Month Celebration Closes With Ceremony

Stony Brook University celebrated its Black History Month closing event on Feb. 24, 2016, by commemorating and acknowledging the accomplishments of two black leaders and pioneers. The keynote speaker was Yusef Salaam, a member of the "Central Park Five" (also the name of an award-winning documentary about the 1989 case of five black and Latino teenagers who were wrongfully convicted of raping a white woman in Central Park). Salaam shared his story of resiliency and triumph. Also, Will Tye, tight end for the New York Giants, was honored for his accomplishments as the first Stony Brook football player to join the NFL.

[Read the full story](#)

Encouraging K-12 Student Interest in Computer Science



Local high school students learn about coding and computer science careers.

The Department of Computer Science is encouraging K-12 students throughout the nation to study computer science as a way to meet growing workforce demand. "It is our hope that through consistent high school outreach, students will learn to love computer science as much as we do, and eventually the employment gap will decrease," said Arie Kaufman, Distinguished Professor and Chair of the Department of Computer Science.

[Read the full story](#)

Upcoming Events

March is Women's History Month

[Stony Brook celebrates with a variety of events](#)

Marie Colvin Lecture: Rukmini Callimachi

March 8, 2016

[Foreign news correspondent for *The New York Times* covering Islamic extremism](#)

Provost's Lecture Series: Shaun R. Harper

March 10, 2016

[21st Annual Leadership Symposium: Challenges in Higher Education](#)

Women's Leadership Symposium

March 17, 2016

[Inspiration & Empowerment: A Conversation For and About Women in the Workplace](#)

Contact Information:
Office of Government and Community Relations

(631) 632-6302
governmentrelations@stonybrook.edu

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