

Provost's Office: University Senate Report

March 3, 2025

Provost's Initiatives and Updates

Departments in the School of Communication and Journalism (SoCJ)

A proposal to establish a Department of Communication and a Department of Journalism within SoCJ has been approved. The proposal was made in February 2025 to the Arts & Sciences Senate, which voted in favor of the proposal (with no objections). The Provost's Office supports the proposal and has begun work to institute this change, effective July 1, 2025. In the meantime, searches for chairs of each department will commence in March with eligibility open to candidates both within SoCJ and the broader faculty whose work aligns with these disciplines. The change is in support of growth in academic programs, enrollment, and research funding, which necessitated the creation of distinct departments to better serve the needs of students and faculty in the school.

Biology Online

A change in reporting structure for [Biology Online](#) was completed in Fall 2024. Previously, Biology Online reported under the Office of the Provost. Effective Fall 2024, the Biology Online Program has become part of the Biochemistry Department within the College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Programs

Recently approved programs

- Computer Science BS (Revision, 02/2025)
- Biochemistry & Structural Biology PhD (Revision 02/2025)
- TESOL MA (Revision, 02/2025)

Faculty Development

Emerging Leaders

This program provides development opportunities for the next generation of higher education leaders in research, education, and administration. On February 14, there was a follow-up workshop with the Alda Center for Communicating Science. The next event is the retreat in May.

Excellence in Teaching Program

This program features a series of workshops and hands-on activities centered on teaching and learning. Experiential and Innovative Pedagogy and Assessment Fundamentals workshops took place in February for both cohorts. Upcoming events in March include workshops on AI tools for the classroom for the new cohorts and Multiple-Choice Tests and Questions for the previous cohort.

Navigating SBU

This program provides development and support opportunities for early career faculty. On February 28, there was a workshop on Best Practices in Mentoring facilitated by the Center for Inclusive Education with early career faculty and their mentors attending.

Chairs Networking

On March 4 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. in the Bauman Center, there will be a networking event with Chairs and Institute Directors with the Provost to discuss updates on academic affairs. The next event is the retreat in May.

Generative AI-tools for Teaching and Learning - Departmental Workshops

This program features a series of workshops tailored to academic departments to learn about Generative AI tools to be used in the classroom and for course preparation. The most recent workshop was offered to Civil Engineering and took place on February 26.

Provost Lecture Series

Featuring SUNY Distinguished Professors Lawrence Martin and Pat Wright was a great success. Over 130 people attended. If you missed the lectures, you can view them [here](#).

Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching Recipients

Congratulations to the awardees of the 2024-2025 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching: *Bryan Horan from ISTEM* and *Eric Miller from Honors College*, for their outstanding contributions to education.

Open Award Nominations

Nominations are open for [Stony Brook Trustees Faculty Awards](#), [Outstanding Mentoring Award](#), [Outstanding Lecturer Award](#), and [Celebration of Teaching Awards](#). **The deadline for nominations for all these awards is March 25.**

Academic Affairs

Promotion & Tenure:

We are grateful to the chairs, deans, ATCs, and associate deans who helped get promotion files for candidates to Full Professor submitted by the new January 15 deadline. Of those submitted by the deadline, we were able to complete the provost's review within 2 weeks for 90% of them. This year we will accept files for promotion to full until March 15.

EDGE Proposals

Call for proposals is now open for the second round of Empowering Development of General Education (EDGE). The EDGE fund supports faculty who seek to create or revise courses that will enhance the quality and relevance of Stony Brook's general education program, the Stony Brook Curriculum. Learn more [here](#).

CELT Events and News

April 11: CELT Symposium

Registration is open for CELT's [Learning and Teaching Symposium: A New Era of Inclusivity and Innovation in Higher Education](#) which will be held on Friday, April 11.

Programs for Graduate Students and Postdocs

Graduate Students and Postdocs are invited to attend CELT's [College Teaching Seminars](#):

- 3/12: Using Active Learning Effectively
- 3/26: Teaching Experiences Panel Discussion with IRACDA Postdocs

Accessibility Regulations

Do you have questions about the upcoming Title II Federal Regulation, regarding **accessibility of digital materials**? Reach out to celt@stonybrook.edu if you would like us to come to your department meeting. Also, check out CELT's [accessibility resources](#).

New Journal on Teaching and Learning

[International Journal of Transformative Teaching and Learning in Higher Education \(IJTTL\)](#) first issue is now available. The international peer-reviewed, open-access, and interdisciplinary educational journal is committed to the advancement of higher education teaching and learning. The first issue, "Mapping and Reimagining the State of Higher Education contains seven articles covering a wide range of topics such as health inequities, virtual exchange programs, artificial intelligence, and more. Consider submitting your educational research to us.

Enrollment Management

Office of Financial Aid & Scholarship Services:

- The Office of Financial Aid anticipates releasing financial aid offers to prospective students by the end of February.
- At present, federal funding for FWS (Federal Work-Study) and SEOG (Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant) appears stable; however, ongoing discussions at the federal level suggest potential changes to grant program funding in the future.
- Additionally, there is significant dialogue surrounding the future direction of services provided by the U.S. Department of Education.

Office of the Registrar

Academic Calendar

- Friday, March 14: Spring 2025 Drop Down: Last day to submit an approved adjustment form for selected AMS, MAT, MAP, and PHY courses to the Office of Registrar.
- Monday, March 17 to Sunday, March 23 Spring Recess: No classes in session. Classes will resume, Monday, March 24.
- Monday, March 31

- Major/Minor Changes Begin: Students can begin to submit major/minor changes effective Fall Semester
- Publish Class Schedule for Summer/Fall 2025
- Friday, April 4
 - Section/Credit Change Form: Last day to submit a Section/Credit Change Form to the Office of Registrar. After this date petition is required and "W" (withdrawal) will be recorded on transcript.
 - GPNC: Last day students can select Grade/Pass/No Credit (GPNC). Non-petionable.
 - Course Withdrawal: Last day students can process a withdrawal from individual courses(es) via SOLAR. "W" (withdrawal) will be recorded on transcript.

Undergraduate Admissions

- Our Fall 2025 application cycle for new first-year students closed February 15.
- We estimate first-year applications grew year-over-year by 12.5%, an indicator of strong interest in Stony Brook.
- Admitted off-campus student programs in NY and in select domestic and international markets are beginning in early March. These are a mix of in-person and virtual.
- The application for transfer students will close on May 1.
- New visit programs for transfer students are launching in February and will continue through the spring.

Undergraduate Education

Spring 2025 Progress Reports

The progress report campaign is underway through March 19. In Fall 2024 we had a 66% response rate from faculty. (Thank you!) And, for students who received a progress report alert and received a support intervention, 66% went on to earn a passing grade and continued their progress toward graduation.

URECA Humanities Research Assistant Pilot

URECA, in collaboration with URISE, continues to expand earlier opportunities in research. For spring 2025 URECA has paired 12 first-year students with 11 outstanding faculty on project-based research.

Graduate School

3MT & Postdoc Spotlight

The Graduate School will host its annual [Three-Minute Thesis \(3MT\)](#) competition on Friday, March 28 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Wang Center lecture halls. This year, 3MT will also include a [Postdoc Spotlight](#) round of postdoc talks.

Research Mentor Training

Mark your calendars for upcoming **Research Mentor Training (RMT)** sessions. The Graduate School offers [research mentor training](#) for graduate students, postdoctoral scholars, and faculty. The spring dates for these training sessions are as follows:

- RMT for Postdocs: March 17 to 19 (virtual) | [Register](#)
- Optimizing RMT for Faculty: May 2 and 9 (in person) | [Register](#)
- RMT for Graduate Students: May 16 and 23 (virtual) | [Register](#)

Institutional and Educational Effectiveness

Excellence in Educational Effectiveness (EEE) Award

[Nominations due Friday, March 7](#)

The EEE Award recognizes Stony Brook University community members who demonstrate a strong commitment to best practices in academic assessment and continuous improvement. This award is open to full- and part-time faculty, staff, assessment coordinators, and graduate teaching assistants who have positively impacted student learning, academic programs, or services through effective assessment practices. Awarded by the Provost's Office and managed by the [Office of Educational Effectiveness](#) and the [Assessment Council](#).

International Love Data Week

Stony Brook University celebrated International Love Data Week from February 10 to 14, culminating in a Data Open House on Friday, February 14, at the Wang Theater. The week featured a series of 30-minute webinars aimed at enhancing data proficiency, showcasing innovative projects, and fostering a community of data enthusiasts.

The Data Open House engaged over 100 faculty, staff, and students with a variety of data-focused games and activities.

2024-25 General Education Assessment Guided Conversations

The Office of Educational Effectiveness, in collaboration with the Provost's Office, SBU Assessment Council, and General Education Advisory Committee, is leading the assessment of SBC general education courses in the SBS, QPS, ESI, SPK, and HFA+ categories. Guided conversations with faculty are currently taking place this semester, alongside faculty and student focus groups to gather deeper insights. Learn more: [General Education Assessment 2024-25](#).

Spring 2025 Assessment Coordinators Listening Tour

The Office of Educational Effectiveness is currently conducting Assessment Coordinators Listening Tour sessions to better understand what's working in the current process and identify areas for improvement.

These conversations are helping programs collect meaningful data to support informed decision-making. If you are an Assessment Coordinator, we encourage you to participate in these [ongoing discussions](#).

Climate & Sustainability Programming

April 4: Inaugural Long Island Youth Climate Summit

On April 4, the Collaborative for the Earth, in collaboration with Economic Development, [Renewable Energy Long Island](#) and [Students for Climate Action](#), will co-host the **inaugural Long Island Youth Climate Summit**. The summit invites students from school districts across Long Island to participate in a one-day event that will expose them to climate science, solutions, policy and advocacy through panel presentations and workshops conducted by experts in various fields.

April 23-24: Inaugural Climate Solutions Summit NYC

On April 23 and 24, the New York Climate Exchange will host the **inaugural [Climate Solutions Summit NYC](#)** on Governors Island. The Summit will focus on research in coastal urban environments and will offer opportunities for attendees to explore emerging research, build relationships, and develop collaborations with other Exchange partners.

April 24: Second annual environmental debate with C4E

The Collaborative for the Earth will host the **second, annual environmental debate** on Governors Island on Thursday, April 24. In keeping with this year's nuclear theme, the debate will host a panel of experts in nuclear energy and engineering from Stony Brook University and other institutions. The debate will tackle "*The Role of Nuclear Energy in Meeting Our Climate Change Targets.*" [Registration](#) for the trip is open until Friday, March 28.

April 29: Field trip to Governors Island

On Tuesday, April 29, the Collaborative for the Earth is hosting a **field trip to Governors Island**. This is an all-day visit to introduce students, staff, and faculty to current programs and to give them an opportunity to explore and consider future research about climate solutions and the New York Climate Exchange. [Registration](#) for the trip is open until Friday, March 28.