



To the Stony Brook Community:

Governor David Paterson today announced a bold new initiative that is part of the Governor's Executive State Budget proposal: the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act. With the full support and backing of SUNY Chancellor Nancy Zimpher and CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, this Act will produce the most significant public higher education reform in a generation. How will it affect Stony Brook? We can all be proud of how much Stony Brook University has achieved in its short history; with the passage of this Act, I am confident we will achieve so much more.

The Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act would allow the SUNY Board of Trustees to implement differential tuition for all SUNY State-operated campuses, by campus and by program. This is absolutely central to enhancing our University's prestige and the quality of our students' education. Rational and predictable increases in tuition would prevent sudden and dramatic increases that have occurred in the past, and, more importantly, money from the increased tuition would stay on campus. The increased revenue would enable Stony Brook to hire 400 new faculty over the next decade, increase the availability of classes to help students graduate on time, create smaller class sizes, provide students with more one-on-one time to interact with faculty, and free up faculty to work with students on the kinds of research that lead to discoveries, therapies, innovations, and cures. And, we pledge to keep our most economically disadvantaged students and their families harmless from these tuition increases by designating some of the revenue for scholarships.

In addition, the Act would allow for greater participation in public-private partnerships, whereby the University could leverage the commercial investment of the private sector with research breakthroughs made on campus to benefit our economy, our health, and our planet. This investment would allow for the construction of new laboratories and classrooms, and the development of new businesses, making Stony Brook a central driver in the revitalization of the Long Island economy. It would create jobs throughout the employment sector, from manufacturing and construction to biotechnology and higher education.

The Act would also grant Stony Brook more autonomy to achieve efficiencies in the way we do business with enhanced transparency and accountability in our practices. This would result in cost savings to the University and to the State of New York that could be reinvested elsewhere. Increased autonomy would also strengthen the ability of our Hospital to remain on the cutting edge of innovation.

In summary, passage of this legislation would add luster to the prestige of a Stony Brook University degree. It would ensure that we are one of the great universities in the world. Our students deserve no less.

I will work in the coming months to champion this vital initiative and to rally support for it from our students, faculty, staff, and community. Later this month, Stony Brook will host a meeting of State lawmakers representing Long Island to discuss this legislative priority as well as the impact of the Governor's budget on Stony Brook University. I have already met with the Stony Brook Council and the University Senate to share the importance of the passage of this legislation. Your help is absolutely essential to this process, and I look forward to working with you to get the Public Higher Education Empowerment and Innovation Act signed into law. I encourage you to go to [www.stonybrook.edu/innovation](http://www.stonybrook.edu/innovation) for more information.

We are truly on the cusp of a milestone achievement that will enable Stony Brook University and the other SUNY institutions to help lead our State to economic vitality.

Samuel L. Stanley, Jr., M.D.  
President