



# Stony Brook University

Search for the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences  
Stony Brook University  
Stony Brook, New York

## THE SEARCH

Stony Brook University, one of the top research-intensive institutions in the United States, a flagship within the State University of New York (SUNY) system, and a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU) invites applications and nominations for the position of Dean for the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS). The Dean will be joining an exciting leadership team led by President Maurie McInnis, a renowned scholar in the cultural history of American Art in the 19th century American South, and former Provost of the University of Texas Austin, and Provost Carl Lejuez, an accomplished clinical psychologist whose work focuses on the intersection of psychological science and treatment development and implementation.

Established in 1957 as a college for the preparation of secondary school teachers of mathematics and science, Stony Brook University (SBU) is recognized as the number one public university in New York and one of the nation's important centers of learning and scholarship. SBU comprises 12 schools that offer more than 60 undergraduate majors and 130 graduate programs, including doctoral and professional programs. The curriculum is taught by renowned faculty, 98 percent of whom hold doctoral degrees or the highest degrees in their fields. The total student body is composed of 25,865 students, of whom 17,549 are undergraduates and 8,316 are graduate students. The College of Arts & Sciences is the intellectual core of SBU, spanning the sciences, mathematics, humanities, social sciences, and fine arts.

Recent high-profile accomplishments, as well as increased financial support from a historic \$500M philanthropic gift and the highest increase in state support in over 10 years, are propelling the university toward new heights. A tangible feeling of energy and forward momentum permeates the institution and its community. Stony Brook seeks an inspiring and transparent leader for the position of Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences. Reporting to the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences serves as a key member of the university's leadership team. The Dean of CAS will play a vital leadership role in advancing the mission, operations, and service of the college and will have complete line responsibility for personnel, general administration, management, budget, and academic and development functions. The Dean will guide an active and diverse research agenda across the arts, humanities, and sciences and promote excellence in undergraduate and graduate education, including by developing collaborative and groundbreaking academic programs.

The successful candidate will be a distinguished academic innovator with a growth mindset, outstanding interpersonal skills with the ability to connect and inspire, sharp financial acumen, and a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion. They will understand the absolute necessity of recruiting and retaining a world-class faculty and will inspire donors and partners. CAS has a strong legacy of interdisciplinary programs and desires a candidate who will bring a history of working across a complex institution and the ability to partner with other deans to increase collaborative research and academic programming. The Dean will be eager to engage, listen, support, and develop staff. Stony Brook University seeks a passionate leader with exceptional communication skills, who embraces shared governance and is ready to make the decisions necessary for an institution of higher education of this scale to thrive. The Dean will appreciate the different needs of college disciplines and will ensure all departments in the college are valued and promoted.

Stony Brook University has retained Isaacson, Miller, a leading national search firm, to assist with this recruitment. Inquiries, nominations, and applications, in the form of a CV and cover letter, should be sent in strict confidence to the firm as indicated at the end of this document.

#### **THE STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK SYSTEM**

The State University of New York is a system of public institutions of higher education across the entire state of New York. With 64 college and university campuses located within 30 miles of every home, school, and business in the state, SUNY is the nation's largest comprehensive system of public higher education. It serves more than 1.3 million students annually, employs more than 90,000 faculty and staff, and connects more than three million alumni around the world. It expends \$1.6 billion annually on research and grants about 96,000 degrees each year. Its annual budget is \$10.7 billion. SUNY's administrative offices are in Albany, the state's capital, with satellite offices in Manhattan and Washington, DC.

#### **STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY**

In 2022, New York State Governor Kathy Hochul designated Stony Brook University the prestigious role as one of two flagship universities in the SUNY system, reflecting the pre-eminent role the university plays, nationally and internationally, as a model of research and academic excellence. In June 2023, the Simons Foundation announced a historic \$500 million endowment gift to Stony Brook University, the largest unrestricted donation to an institution of higher education in U.S. history. The extraordinary gift is expected to grow by up to \$1 billion in contributions for Stony Brook University's endowment by capitalizing on New York State's 1:2 endowment matching program and additional philanthropy inspired by this gift. This transformative donation will cement Stony Brook's place as New York's premier research institution and provide the means to invest in the most urgent and necessary areas to help sustain the university's unwavering commitment to educational excellence, research innovation, and community support.

Located on Long Island's beautiful north shore, the Stony Brook campus is situated on 1,454 wooded acres, encompassing its 12 schools and colleges; a Research and Development Park; world-class athletics facilities, including an 8,300-seat stadium and a 4,000-seat arena. In addition to the flagship campus, Stony Brook boasts an additional satellite campus, Stony Brook Southampton, and programs in Manhattan. The

university maintains a prominent global footprint with internationally recognized research centers in Kenya and Madagascar, and administers the SUNY Korea campus in Incheon, South Korea.

Stony Brook University offers a comprehensive range of academic programs across a broad array of disciplines, providing students with diverse and engaging learning opportunities. The West Campus, under the academic leadership of the Executive Vice President and Provost, houses six academic schools and colleges, the Graduate School, and numerous centers and institutes. The East Campus, under the academic leadership of the Executive Vice President of Health Sciences and CEO of Stony Brook Medicine, houses five academic schools and a program in Public Health. Stony Brook Medicine, Long Island's premier academic medical center, encompasses five health science schools, four hospitals, and 200 community-based healthcare settings. Stony Brook is a key player in furthering economic development on Long Island and is part of the management team of nearby Brookhaven National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy facility. SBU maintains more than 75 joint appointments with Brookhaven that enable researchers to develop collaborations, access facilities, mentor students, and, in some cases, participate in teaching.

President McInnis continues to make significant investments to propel Stony Brook University to even higher levels of distinction. In late 2021, she launched the \$75 million President's Innovation and Excellence Fund, fully supported by philanthropic gifts, to enhance externally funded research on campus. This fund has supported Stony Brook's efforts to serve as the anchor institution for the New York Climate Exchange on Governors Island, the nation's first climate research, education, and green-sector-job-training hub set to transform our global response to the climate crisis. To promote excellence through equity and diversity in STEM fields, President McInnis announced the Stony Brook Simons STEM Scholars Program in May 2022, supported by a \$56.6 million gift from the Simons Foundation and the Simons Foundation International, to improve pathways to STEM careers and doctoral degrees for under-represented students. A results-oriented leader, President McInnis strategically moved the campus to a multi-year, all-funds budgeting model to invest in strategic priorities and enable the university to identify new revenue-increasing opportunities and new areas of growth.

Over the past decade, Stony Brook has become a national leader in improving student success by raising the four-year graduation rate for entering first-year undergraduates by seventeen percentage points from 47 percent to 64 percent, and improving time to degree at all degree levels. Stony Brook is one of the rare institutions among the AAU to close equity gaps. Students with Pell Grants graduate at the same rates as those from more affluent backgrounds, and students who identify as Black and Latinx graduate at the same rate as white students. In addition, students who are the first in their families to attend college graduate at the same rate as those with a long family tradition of pursuing higher education. Stony Brook was ranked third in the United States by the Stanford Center for Poverty and Inequality for improving students' social mobility, due to equalized post-graduation success rates across socioeconomic backgrounds of Stony Brook alumni.

The current University Strategic Plan – [Our Moment](#) – lays out the extensive strengths and priorities in front of the university at this critical and exciting time and describes vital objectives for the future.

As reported by U.S. News and World Report, Stony Brook has achieved a significant ascent in the national academic landscape, reflecting its notable progress and achievements. The university now holds the impressive position of #1 among public universities in New York. Additionally, it ranks #58 among National Universities and #26 in Top Public Schools, showcasing remarkable advancement from its previous rankings of #93 and #39 just three years ago. Forbes has recognized SBU as one of America's Best-in-State Employers and as an institution that provides exemplary employment opportunities on Long Island and in New York State. SBU is also ranked on the 2022 America's Best Employers for Diversity Forbes list.

## **LEADERSHIP**

Appointed in July 2020, President Maurie McInnis is focused on providing a high-quality, affordable education for all students, which builds upon a diverse student population that includes twenty percent underrepresented minority students, more than one-third of students who are Pell Grant-eligible, and one-third who are the first in their families to go to college.

A renowned cultural historian and author, President McInnis' academic scholarship has focused on race, slavery, and power in the 19th-century American South. She brings to Stony Brook her humanist values, among them her conviction that institutes of higher learning should use their expertise and influence to address major societal problems. As such, she is deeply committed to the mission of public research universities.

Carl Lejuez was appointed Executive Vice President and Provost in July 2022. Prior to Stony Brook, Provost Lejuez served as the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of Connecticut. As a first-generation college student, Provost Lejuez is a stalwart supporter of Stony Brook's mission, students, staff, and faculty. He received his Ph.D. in clinical psychology from West Virginia University and completed his clinical training at the Brown University Clinical Training Consortium. His areas of interest and research include the development of behavioral mental health interventions to address a wide range of psychological conditions including mood disorders, addictions, and personality disorders for marginalized and underserved populations. The Dean of CAS will join an extremely strong, supportive, and collaborative group of deans, including recent hires from institutions such as the University of Illinois, the Ohio State University, and Wake Forest University.

Along with the leadership team, President McInnis and Provost Lejuez continue to embrace and advance opportunities to recruit accomplished faculty to improve teaching and learning, conduct groundbreaking research, and boost the socioeconomic mobility of all students at Stony Brook University.

## **STONY BROOK, NEW YORK**

The historic north shore village of Stony Brook is located near the geographic midpoint of Long Island, approximately 60 miles east of Manhattan and 67 miles west of Montauk in Suffolk County. Stony Brook and its neighbors, Setauket, and Old Field, form an entity known as the Three Village area within the town of Brookhaven, the largest town in Suffolk County. The Three Village area boasts one of the state's most lively public school districts. Stony Brook is home to popular attractions like the Long Island Museum of American Art, History, and Carriages, the Stony Brook Grist Mill Museum, and Stony Brook Village Center,

an outdoor shopping plaza designed to resemble Colonial Williamsburg. The combination of Long Island Sound views on the north shore, Stony Brook University's neo-brutalist and utilitarian architecture, and white clapboard shops near Main Street make Stony Brook one of the most visually unique towns across Suffolk and Nassau counties. The Long Island Railroad serves the community with the Stony Brook station situated along the northern edge of the campus. A ferry service connects the neighboring town of Port Jefferson with Connecticut and New England.

The university offers many opportunities for community members to come to campus, including the annual Stony Brook Film Festival featuring independent foreign titles and documentaries, Stony Brook University's eighteen varsity intercollegiate athletic programs competing at the NCAA Division I level, and the Staller Center for the Arts, a unique hub of activity offering world-class live performances and outstanding entertainment. The Charles B. Wang Center, an Asian and Asian-American Cultural Center, is an integral component of Stony Brook University that was founded in 2002 and is dedicated to being the foremost world-class center of Asian and Asian American arts and culture.

### THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES (CAS)

As the liberal arts college and the primary driver of the general education curriculum for the campus, the College of Arts and Sciences helps students and faculty explore diverse possibilities that prepare them for a lifetime of learning and discovery. CAS is a diverse and multifaceted college that serves approximately 70 percent of the student population across its [30 majors, 40+ minors, 25 departments, and 27 PhD programs](#). CAS is also highly collaborative with other academic units including joint oversight with other schools and colleges of multiple academic programs and departments, as well as participation in several interdisciplinary research centers and institutes across campus.

#### Fast Facts:

- 10,790 Bachelor's degree-seeking students
- 1,694 Graduate degree-seeking Students
- 720 Faculty Members (430 Tenure/Tenure Track, 290 Non-Tenure Track)
- 312 Staff Members
- 107,000 Alumni
- \$79 Million Endowment

The College of Arts and Sciences strives to be a global leader in advancing human knowledge and social well-being through transformative education, cutting-edge research and scholarship, and engaged creative expression. With a commitment to advancing the welfare of human and global systems, CAS is inclusive and innovative in all that it does. To that end, CAS upholds four key values to achieve its mission:

**Excellence:** CAS sets and demonstrates high standards in all that is done, from research to teaching to collaboration with partners and community members.

**Innovation:** CAS sparks innovation and entrepreneurship among faculty, staff, and students, investing in people and creative ideas. It provides upward socio-economic mobility for its graduates.

**Collaboration:** CAS commits to making a difference in the world through cutting-edge research, and dedication to teaching and learning.

**Equity:** CAS works together to build and sustain a culture of care and inclusion with Stony Brook University and beyond – Long Island, NY, nationally and globally.

CAS' [Navigational Guide to 2030](#) updated in May 2023, includes plans for education, research, and mentorship based on constellations of strength. As with the college's initial guide introduced in February 2020, this updated vision outlines key goals that will drive CAS forward to a convergent, innovative, and sustainable future.

## **ROLE OF THE DEAN**

As the head of the largest college at SBU, the Dean must lead with forward-thinking strategy, execute with sophisticated tactics, and steward the diverse units within CAS with a sense of common purpose. Guiding a robust educational, scholarship, and research agenda, the Dean of CAS will play a key leadership role in advancing the mission, operations, and service of CAS. The Dean will work collaboratively across SBU, champion curricular innovation as well as interdisciplinary collaboration, and lead a diverse community of trailblazing scholars, promoting excellence in undergraduate and graduate education.

This is an opportunity to lead a complex academic unit of enormous intellectual range and depth. There are twenty-five department chairs, eleven center/institute directors, and five associate deans who all report to the Dean of CAS.

An astute fiscal manager, the Dean will also serve as the main financial officer of CAS, which manages resources in excess of \$124M per fiscal year. Research expenditures have steadily risen over the past few years, and the Dean will be charged with further enhancing this trajectory.

## **KEY OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES**

The successful dean will address the following opportunities and challenges that are central to the College of Arts and Science's sustained growth and success:

### ***Provide insightful leadership for the College of Arts & Sciences***

The Dean must demonstrate a deep understanding and appreciation for disciplinary excellence within departments and the ability to foster interdisciplinary collaboration among departments to encourage innovation. The Dean will embrace the entire breadth of disciplines, with special attention to supporting and promoting the growth of the humanities and social sciences, as well as scientific research. The Dean will understand department strengths and requirements, communicate their value, and champion their importance. In all activities, the Dean must be persistent, collaborative, and entrepreneurial; they must encourage whole institutional thinking and demonstrate an abiding commitment to the mission and vision of SBU. By creating space for the voices that make up the CAS community, the Dean's thoughtful, collegial, and action-oriented leadership will advance the university's goals to continue to create a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive community for all students, faculty, and staff.

The wide scope and scale of CAS presents tremendous opportunities for interdisciplinary endeavors. The Dean will pursue innovation as integral to excellence and work collaboratively to actively create additional programs that utilize the skills of faculty, staff, and students across departments, centers, and groups. Opportunities to create compelling, timely, viable, and innovative programs with other units and colleges at Stony Brook abound, and the next dean will be expected to spearhead and enhance these efforts.

***Generate and develop the resources of the College of Arts and Sciences***

As the lead ambassador for CAS, the Dean must be a financially astute leader who provides strategic management of the college's resources at a time when limited state funding and one of the lowest tuitions among state flagship universities require efficient use of resources and the continued development of revenue streams that are in line with the values and strategic goals of CAS and SBU.

An enthusiastic fundraiser, the Dean will work with advancement to engage and inspire potential donors and secure additional funds to support the work of CAS. The Dean must have the financial acumen to increase the strength of the college's finances and ensure that it operates sustainably. The Dean will position CAS structurally and programmatically to fully realize its potential. In addition, the Dean will communicate effectively and build transparency with respect to budgeting processes, principles, and decisions.

***Lead, develop, and support a talented faculty***

The ability to hire and retain high-quality faculty is critical to the long-term success of any university. The next dean will contribute to shaping Stony Brook University's faculty by leading efforts to recruit and retain excellent teacher-scholars in arts and sciences who embrace the university's mission of inclusive teaching and scholarly, research, and creative excellence. The Dean will work closely with the provost, fellow deans, and faculty governance to further strengthen the systems for hiring and developing faculty. Simultaneously, a successful dean will develop targeted strategies to foster the retention of faculty, particularly that of faculty of color, recognizing and valuing their contributions to the academic community. The Dean will attend to the ongoing needs and professional development of all members of CAS and will identify opportunities to strengthen support both for non-tenure and tenure-track faculty. The Dean will also work to promote more inclusive research opportunities across all departments. The relationship between the faculty of Arts & Sciences and the senior administration will be nurtured and sustained by the Dean so that the university can work toward shared institutional goals. The Dean will actively work to ensure all departments are valued and supported.

***Support a high-performing staff throughout CAS and ensure operational optimization***

CAS has the advantage of a passionate and talented staff dedicated to supporting faculty and students. The Dean will assume the responsibility of cultivating an environment that places a premium on the continuous professional growth of staff, ensuring they remain well-versed in the latest advancements or changes occurring across the university. With a keen focus on fostering a culture of perpetual enhancement and service to the units, the Dean will actively work towards refining and optimizing work processes and communication channels within CAS, thereby reducing non-essential administrative tasks



and augmenting communication efficiency. By staying attuned to emerging trends and encouraging a proactive approach to organizational refinement and opportunities for professional growth, the Dean will play a pivotal role in shaping an environment that thrives on improvement and adaptability, and one that supports the CAS staff in their growth.

***Foster an environment of student success both within and outside the classroom***

Stony Brook University – and CAS in particular – has a long tradition of increasing the social mobility of its students, while focusing on excellence in undergraduate and graduate learning. With an increasingly diverse student body, the Dean must maintain the college’s well-established reputation for providing an interactive and engaging student experience that further improves student success and outcomes. Additionally, the Dean will find opportunities to embed an inclusive understanding of the lived experience and aspirations of CAS students into the culture of CAS and will incorporate student feedback to do so.

***Cultivate a conducive atmosphere that embraces diversity, equity and inclusion***

Stony Brook University stands out for its vibrant and diverse student body that includes a variety of cultures, backgrounds, and perspectives. Stony Brook has implemented initiatives to enhance social mobility and ensure that education remains an accessible pathway to success for all students, regardless of socioeconomic background. The Dean will continue to take pride in and nurture an inclusive community, uplifting the unique needs of the various student organizations and affinity groups on campus. The Dean will reinforce a college culture where every student’s unique identity is supported and celebrated, contributing to a holistic educational experience that values and respects the myriad perspectives within its diverse student population.

***Grow strategic partnerships and extend the reach of CAS on and off campus***

The Dean will be a visible presence beyond the boundaries of CAS. Advocating on behalf of CAS and its faculty, staff, and students, the Dean will compellingly communicate CAS’ priorities, needs, and challenges to the university community and articulate its contribution to the success of the institution’s mission. The successful dean will promote and champion the work of CAS on the local and national stage. The Dean will be an advocate for CAS, creating relationships across the university and beyond. Additionally, the Dean should be prepared to enthusiastically strengthen donor relationships and solicit engagement with foundations, corporations, and philanthropists in order to share CAS’s dynamic vision for the future.

In addition, the Dean is an emissary to alumni and potential friends of the university and will both lead and be an active participant in outreach to potential individuals and partners. Working with the University Development Office, the Dean will lead efforts to communicate broadly both the accomplishments and the needs of CAS.

**QUALIFICATIONS & CHARACTERISTICS**

Stony Brook University seeks an accomplished and experienced academic leader with a demonstrated and passionate commitment to the mission of public higher education. While few candidates will possess all



the qualifications and characteristics the search committee is seeking, the ideal candidate for the Dean, College of Arts and Sciences, will have many of the following:

- Ability to work effectively with university senior leadership along with faculty, staff, students, and postdoctoral scholars in executing an ambitious strategic plan.
- Significant leadership and administrative experience in a large, complex organization; strong, transparent management skills, including stewardship of fiscal and human resources.
- Ability to efficiently manage school-wide budgets and school-wide resource acquisition and utilization.
- Experience in leading and managing change, superior communication skills, and data-informed decision-making.
- Strong and dynamic leadership skills including experience leading in an environment that promotes shared governance and/or unionization.
- Demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion among faculty, staff, students, and postdoctoral scholars.
- Demonstrated aptitude in addressing concerns specific to a diverse community of domestic and international students, postdoctoral scholars, faculty, and staff.
- A track record of maintaining and developing vital infrastructure (e.g. buildings, capital equipment).
- A commitment to being an advocate for the College of Arts and Sciences, to foster relationships across the university, and to build new partnerships externally.
- Evidence of successful involvement in development initiatives and the ability to work effectively with university alumni.
- An understanding of the disciplinary differences across CAS and SBU, and the importance of balancing consistency in practices with disciplinary-relevant flexibility in the approach to policy and procedure, including promotion and tenure.
- Proven ability to encourage, develop, and evaluate teaching, scholarly research, and creative activities across CAS with a commitment to interdisciplinarity.
- Multiple years of experience in an academic administrative or leadership role with relevant managerial experience.
- Highest terminal degree within a College of Arts and Sciences discipline from an accredited institution.
- A record of outstanding scholarly output and innovation in a discipline relevant to the academic mission of Stony Brook University.
- Credentials and achievements that merit appointment as a tenured professor in the College of Arts and Sciences.

#### **APPLICATIONS, INQUIRIES, AND NOMINATIONS:**

Screening of complete applications will begin immediately and continue until the completion of the search process. Inquiries, nominations, referrals, and CVs with cover letters should be sent via the Isaacson, Miller

website for the search: <https://www.imsearch.com/open-searches/stony-brook-university/dean-college-arts-and-sciences>. Electronic submission of materials is strongly encouraged.

Jacqueline Mildner, Partner  
Michael A. Baer, Partner  
Arianna Williams, Senior Associate  
Stephen Kalogeras, Associate  
Isaacson, Miller Inc.

*Research shows that people belonging to structurally marginalized groups often only apply to jobs if they meet 100% of the qualifications. As no one ever meets 100% of the qualifications, we encourage you to apply if you feel that most of the above qualifications reflect your experience and expertise.*

*Stony Brook University/SUNY is an affirmative action, equal opportunity educator and employer. The University is committed to the creation of a diverse and inclusive campus climate. Stony Brook University encourages protected veterans, individuals with disabilities, women, and minorities to apply.*