

**Testimony for the New York State
Division of the Budget
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Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony for your consideration as the State proceeds with the budget for 2008. Governor Spitzer's and Budget Director Paul Francis' goal for the budget process to have increased transparency and public involvement is deeply appreciated. Increasing funding levels to public higher education is critical.

Stony Brook University is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary during this academic year. In this short period of time, the University has become one of New York's and the nation's top public research universities; our impressive trajectory has been fueled by tuition and state support; creative and talented faculty who attract significant private, corporate, state, and federal grants; patent and licensing agreements; and, generous friends and alumni. Our federal research expenditures were \$184 million in FY 2006-7, the most of any SUNY campus, and during the last decade we have brought in 95 percent of all SUNY royalties, approximately \$137 million, ranking between 12th and 20th in the nation each year. Our 23,000 students are the most diverse in the four University Center campuses; and, the record number of applications received last year and so far this year are complemented by an ever more rigorous selectivity rate.

Stony Brook University is the State's biggest investment on Long Island. As such we take great care to ensure that the confidence placed in us is served and rewards New York. Our 2006-07 operating budget of \$1.648 billion, of which 11.2% comes from State tax dollars, has a huge impact on the regional economy. With average salaries of \$59,552, our workforce of approximately 13,000 faculty and staff supports local merchants and the tax base of regional school districts. Stony Brook's three incubators have helped to generate many new businesses, and our economic development programs, such as the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and the Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR), which has 330 participating companies, is responsible for retaining or creating more than 10,000 jobs for the Empire State.

Stony Brook's research enterprise is extensive. We are the only university in the metropolitan area that manages a national research laboratory, Brookhaven National Laboratory. Our collaborations with Brookhaven and with Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory have produced impressive scientific breakthroughs, and have the potential for inspiring even greater research, additional commercial enterprises, and jobs and future training possibilities for more NY State residents. Indeed, the synergy of our three world-class institutions is unmatched elsewhere in the nation.

Our research campus requires funding comparable to that of other great research universities, to recruit and retain faculty at all ranks and to purchase equipment and support expensive start-up packages. In addition to these critical areas, we need

additional funding for graduate student support and faculty hiring. In the last budget cycle, we were pleased to receive 18 funded positions in the 06-07 Empire Innovation Program and four positions from the High Needs Program. The 07-08 budget provided an additional 12 new Star Hires through the Empire Innovation Program.

The world-class research that is taking place at Stony Brook and on other SUNY campuses has been advantaged by the Research Capital Equipment Challenge Grant Program (formerly known as GRI). Stony Brook attributes a significant part of its success in attracting Federal grants to the program. Although many research projects are highly dependent on expensive equipment, funding agencies are frequently willing to pay the entire price; but they also require cost sharing. Stony Brook has used GRI funds primarily to leverage external support for research capital equipment and rehabilitation of research infrastructure to tremendous advantage. For fiscal years FY99 through FY05 \$9,896,086 of Equipment Challenge Program funds expended at Stony Brook leveraged \$58,513,317 of external support for sponsored programs, a nearly six-fold return on investment. We encourage reinstatement of this valuable program in the upcoming State budget.

The acquisition of the Southampton College campus, now known as Stony Brook Southampton is a welcome challenge and opportunity. For this campus we have created a multi-disciplinary curriculum dedicated to the theme of Sustainability, a focus that will nurture innovative research, education, and leadership for New York State. The long-term funding plan for this campus includes tuition and fees supplemented by state tax support provided through the SUNY Budget Allocations Process. At full development the campus will be self-supporting. However, during the next several years of growth, tuition and enrollment-related funding will not be sufficient to cover costs of operations. A four-year transitional budget plan is required that would phase out as enrollment grows.

I am cheered by the recent public comments made by Governor Spitzer, Lloyd Constantine, and Paul Francis that show they understand the critically important role education, particularly public higher education, plays in all aspects of our lives. At Stony Brook University we are prepared to do all we can to help support the growth of the Empire State.

Thank you for your time and attention.