



The State University
of New York

Office of the Chancellor

H. Carl McCall SUNY Building
353 Broadway, Albany, New York 12246

SUNY Global Center, 116 E 55th St,
New York, NY 10022

www.suny.edu

MEMORANDUM

April 28, 2026

TO: Members of the Board of Trustees

FROM: Dr. John B. King Jr., Chancellor

SUBJECT: Naming of an Endowed Chair at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook

Action Requested

The proposed resolution names the Peterson-Sanabria Family Endowed Chair of Engineering and Applied Science at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook.

Resolution

I recommend that the Board of Trustees adopt the following resolution:

Whereas Mr. Derek Peterson earned his bachelor's degree from the State University of New York at Stony Brook's College of Engineering and Applied Sciences in 1988; and

Whereas upon graduation Mr. Peterson established himself as a successful entrepreneur in the fields of engineering and technology; and

Whereas Mr. Peterson has demonstrated his enduring commitment to Stony Brook University through his philanthropic support and professional and mentoring efforts over the last decade; now, therefore, be it

Resolved that, in recognition of the philanthropic commitment by Mr. Peterson, the Peterson-Sanabria Family Endowed Chair of Engineering and Applied Science at the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences at the State University of New York at Stony Brook is hereby named.

Background

After graduating from the State University of New York at Stony Brook, Mr. Peterson founded Soter Technologies, an engineering and manufacturing company to address global challenges. His pioneering innovations include developing the first vape detector in 2017 and creating the first medical gateway capable of detecting COVID-related symptoms in 2020.

Mr. Peterson established the Lewis M. Peterson Endowed Scholarship at Stony Brook University; and serves as co-creator, supporter, and judge for the Wolfie Tank and SUNY LI Pitchfest. He has also partnered with the College of Engineering and Applied Sciences to visit local high schools, inspiring students from low-income backgrounds to pursue engineering degrees at Stony Brook.