Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations

Leadership Profile
March 2024
Executive Summary

Stony Brook University seeks an accomplished and savvy leader to serve in the critically important role of Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations (Chief Deputy).

President Maurie McInnis is seeking a trusted partner who, as a member of her Cabinet, will work closely with Stony Brook University leadership and constituents to provide strategic advice, to identify and solve emergent, complex challenges and to oversee the University’s external work of government and community affairs. The position is open due to the upcoming retirement of the current Chief Deputy, who has been a dedicated and deeply respected advisor to President McInnis and a leader of the Stony Brook University community for nine years.

The Chief Deputy works with the President on the planning and implementation of a variety of university-wide strategic initiatives. The incumbent is expected to lead ad hoc teams, which may include Vice Presidents and their divisions. The incumbent may act on behalf of the President and will be expected to represent Stony Brook at high level national and international events and to meet with both internal and external stakeholders.

The Chief Deputy is a broad and distinctive leadership role at Stony Brook University, a respected and increasingly prominent public research university. Reporting directly to President McInnis, (the University's sixth president) the Chief Deputy will be the right hand to the president with respect to advising the leadership team, managing projects and initiatives, building and maintaining internal and external relationships, and enhancing communications.

The ideal candidate will be a confident and strategic leader who will manage and execute a broad range of projects and initiatives across the university. Additionally, the ideal candidate will garner the respect to be the voice of the president with different constituencies and at times, when appropriate, be the face of the president's office both on campus and off. The Chief Deputy will enjoy working independently as a trusted advisor in higher education leadership; building critical relationships and facilitating communications with key constituents within the University, the State University of New York (SUNY) System, alumni, the region and the business world, and motivated by joining a thriving institution whose reputation is growing through the president’s vision and her strong, highly capable team.

The ideal candidate will embrace the intellectual vibrancy, energy, and diversity of Stony Brook’s campuses, creating trusted relationships and communications, facilitating resolution of University issues and crises, and preparing the president for a variety of meetings and events. They will have the earned trust of various community interests, have a talent for issue-spotting and be able to communicate emergent concerns proactively in order to advance the university's strategic objectives. The work of the Chief Deputy is varied and often project-oriented; the successful candidate will enjoy a diverse set of responsibilities that require multi-tasking and agility.

As a member of the prestigious Association of American Universities (AAU) and a recently named flagship of the State University of New York (SUNY) System, Stony Brook is one of America’s most dynamic public universities. Established in 1957 as a college for the preparation of secondary school teachers of mathematics and science, Stony Brook is now recognized as one of the nation’s most important centers
of learning and scholarship. The university is dedicated to carrying out the mandate given by the State Board of Regents in 1960 to become a university that would “stand with the finest in the country.” Recognized by Forbes 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, the University is also ranked on the 2022 America’s Best Employers for Diversity Forbes list and has been ranked the #1 public university in New York State. Stony Brook Medicine is also one of the nation’s leaders in patient care, research, and health sciences education.

To submit a nomination or express personal interest in the position, please see Procedure for Candidacy at the end of the document.

The Role of the Chief Deputy to the President and Senior Vice President for Government and Community Relations

The Chief Deputy to the President/Senior VP for Government and Community Relations reports directly to the President of the University and works with the President on the planning and implementation of a variety of university-wide strategic initiatives. The incumbent is expected to lead teams, which may include Vice Presidents and their divisions. The incumbent may act on behalf of the President and will be expected to represent the university at high level national and international events and to meet with both internal and external stakeholders.
This position comprises dual roles—embracing duties similar to a presidential chief of staff as well as accountability for the university's external relations. However, the Chief Deputy’s portfolio of responsibilities University policy and serves as the president’s senior strategic advisor and counselor on a wide range of internal and external issues to ensure that the university’s vision, mission, and priorities are realized. Provides day-to-day advice and assistance to the president, including resolution or direction on decisions, insight, and objectivity into key issues facing the University.

- Acts as the President’s designee, representing the President’s views as necessary with key internal and/or external stakeholders. Manages high level relationships with internal and external constituencies.
- Leads the University’s state, federal, and local government, and community relations efforts, setting strategy and advocating for the University’s priorities. Interacts with the highest levels of federal, state, local, regional, and national elected individuals, and organizations, including business and civic leaders.
- Convenes institutional leadership on matters of strategic importance, institutional reputation, leadership development, and crises.
- Works with other university units to manage complex, high-priority projects, with responsibility for outcomes.
- Carries out major responsibilities under the President’s purview, such as monitoring and evaluating unit activities, serving as chair of key committees, and communicating with university leadership.
- Provides guidance and support to Cabinet leadership in the planning, development, and implementation of presidential initiatives.
- Directs institutional campus policy decisions.
- Serves as the University’s primary leadership and policy liaison to the Office of the New York State Governor.
- Serves as Stony Brook’s primary leadership, policy, and advocacy liaison to the State University of New York System (SUNY), Office of the Chancellor and the SUNY Board of Trustees, Stony Brook Council (local governance body), and advises the Stony Brook Foundation, Inc. (SBF).
- Develops strategies for SUNY-wide interactions with New York State elected officials and works closely with SUNY Central on issues pertinent to the university and to SUNY.
- Maintains good working relationships with various higher education organizations including but not limited to APLU, AAMC, ACE, AACU, and AAU and attends meetings as appropriate.
- Provides strategic advice and oversight of the Office of Equity and Access to ensure that the campuses are safe and welcoming environments that are free from discrimination, harassment, and sexual misconduct.
Provides strategic advice to the Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness.

Provides strategic advice for the office of Campus and Special Events.

Works closely with Communications to oversee all presidential communications.

Oversees Executive Office budget (all funds) and manages presidential commitments from various SBF and other university funds.

Manages faculty and student issues and oversees communication and resolution of complaints that come to the Office of the President from faculty, staff, students, alumni, donors, patients, and members of the public.

Interfaces with the University Senate and its relevant committees and with union and student government leadership.

In addition to the above duties, the Chief Deputy is also responsible for the following:

**Directly or co-Supervising:**

- Conferences and special events
- Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness
- Office of Institutional Equity and Access
- Office of Government and Community Relations (federal, state, local)
- Executive Office Staff

**Communicating:**

- Assist in developing and driving a communication strategy that supports the University.
- Corrrespond with SUNY system administration and respond to inquiries.
- Prepare reports and provide guidance to the Stony Brook Foundation Board, the Stony Brook Council and the University Senate.
- Undertake research and develop briefings for the president, as well as text for speeches.
- Build relationships and bridges between the office of the president and key stakeholders. These relationships will be key to the chief deputy’s success.
- Establish themselves as the voice of the president and her office in her absence and be part of the team that ensures positive and impactful relations.
Managing projects and conducting research and analysis:

- Conduct research on special projects and implementation of programs initiated by the president.
- Develop and deploy relevant and effective project reporting and business metrics. Monitor and evaluate progress toward goals and objectives of the president.
- Assist in preparing policy and decision support analysis to inform and contextualize institutional decision-making.
- Assess and analyze new opportunities for alignment with institutional priorities.

Serving on committees and councils:

- Serve on key internal and external committees representing the Office of the President.
- Lead the VP Council.
- Provide guidance for agenda items for the University Council, Cabinet, Stony Brook Council.

Professional Qualifications and Personal Qualities

- Strong and strategic leader, bringing a minimum of four years of full-time experience working at an executive administrative level.
- Demonstrated ability to understand, analyze and interpret complex written material and financial data and effectively communicate results of analyses.
- Be a quick study and a learner who can assess data, situations, and people and create and disseminate appropriate communications.
- Able to handle highly sensitive and confidential issues that require independent judgment and discretion and maintain strict confidentiality of privileged information.
- Demonstrated ability to work with senior officials and executives. Be a creative person who can bring new perspectives to the position.
- Possess the ability to think strategically and serve as a sounding board for senior management.
- Able to interact diplomatically with diverse populations and to exercise judgment and tact in interactions with faculty, staff, students, and the public.
- Able to organize, prioritize and perform multiple job functions effectively, meet established deadlines with short turn-around times, and manage changing situations.
- Have the proven ability and skill to identify and analyze complex situations, present alternatives and options, and recommend or implement effective courses of action.

- Demonstrate excellent negotiating skills and proven ability to resolve conflicts.

- Possess strong technology skills.

- Experience working for a senior leader in a higher education, not-for-profit, research or corporate setting would be helpful.

- Desire to be part of a high functioning team in a lean and growing academic institution.

**Experience, Knowledge, and Education**

- Advanced degree required.

- Minimum of four years of fulltime experience working at an executive administrative level.

- A background including supervisory experience in a complex unionized environment is desirable, and prior experience in academic/research setting is strongly preferred. If candidates do not have direct experience with higher education, they must present a demonstrated passion for the missions of teaching and research, and an understanding and appreciation for the shared governance model of decision-making.
About Stony Brook University

Overview

Stony Brook University, a member of the Association of American Universities and a newly named flagship of the State University of New York (SUNY) System, is one of America’s most dynamic public universities. Stony Brook is a center of academic excellence and an internationally recognized research institution that offers all students a world-class education. Established in 1957 as a college for the preparation of secondary school teachers of mathematics and science, Stony Brook was first located in Oyster Bay, Long Island, on the grounds of a former Gold Coast estate. In 1962, a new campus was built near the historic village of Stony Brook on land donated by local philanthropist Ward Melville.

Stony Brook University is now recognized as one of the nation’s important centers of learning and scholarship — carrying out the mandate given by the State Board of Regents in 1960 to become a university that would “stand with the finest in the country.” Situated on the north shore of Long Island, the university campus lies 60 miles east of Manhattan, 50 miles northwest of Southampton and 50 miles from the John F. Kennedy International Airport. It is only a short distance to the Atlantic beaches of the south shore and the vineyards of the East End, and Stony Brook has its own Long Island Railroad station with service to JFK Airport and Penn Station.

For more information about Stony Brook, visit www.stonybrook.edu and the university’s Office of Institutional Research, Planning & Effectiveness Fact Book.

Mission

The University has a five-part mission:

- To provide comprehensive undergraduate, graduate and professional education of the highest quality.
- To carry out research and intellectual endeavors of the highest international standards that advance knowledge and have immediate or long-range practical significance.
- To provide leadership for economic growth, technology and culture for neighboring communities and the wider geographic region.
- To provide state-of-the-art innovative health care, while serving as a resource to a regional health care network and to the traditionally underserved.
- To fulfill these objectives while celebrating diversity and positioning the university in the global community.
Student Demographics

Stony Brook is home to close to 27,000 students (nearly 18,000 undergraduate and nearly 9,000 graduate and professional students) who hail from all 50 states and over 100 countries outside of the United States.

Student educational and economic outcomes are central to Stony Brook’s mission and values. 94% of recent bachelor’s degree recipients are either employed or enrolled in graduate or professional school. According to PayScale.com, a Stony Brook education yields over a $500K return on investment over a 20-year period. The most popular undergraduate majors at Stony Brook are Biology, Psychology, Business Management, Health Science, Computer Science, Applied Mathematics and Statistics, Economics, Biochemistry, Mathematics and Mechanical Engineering. In 2022, 14 Stony Brook students were awarded Fulbright U.S. Student Program scholarships — an institutional record.

Additional information on university statistics can be found here.

Diversity

Stony Brook University is one of the most diverse research universities in the country, and students from traditionally underrepresented backgrounds are remarkably successful at Stony Brook. Stony Brook is one of the few universities in the U.S. where graduation rates of students receiving Pell grants exceed graduation rates of students not receiving Pell grants. In addition, Stony Brook is proud of the high percentage of first-generation college students on its campus and the upward social and income mobility of its graduates.

Stony Brook’s tremendous successes in promoting diversity are apparent among the University’s many recognitions. Stony Brook received the 2018 Higher Education Excellence in Diversity (HEED) Award — a national honor recognizing U.S. colleges and universities that demonstrate an outstanding commitment to diversity and inclusion — from INSIGHT Into Diversity magazine. In 2020, U.S. News & World Report ranked Stony Brook #51 in the country among national universities for its campus ethnic diversity.

Stony Brook is a global leader in working for gender equity. It is one of 10 universities across the world that serves as a UNWomen HeForShe 10x10x10 IMPACT Champion. Working with 10 global companies and 10 countries, IMPACT Champions have all made individual, sectoral and joint commitments to strive for gender equity and to work within their sectors to help others advance. The most recent Impact Report highlights Stony Brook’s Women in Science & Engineering program.

Academics

Stony Brook University is a place where undergraduate education matters. Faculty and administrators strive to provide all undergraduate students with an exceptional academic experience that prepares them
well for the next stages of their lives. Undergraduates at Stony Brook can take classes in eight of the 12 colleges and schools at the university and have access to more than 200 major and minor degree programs. Additionally, there are opportunities for exciting research experiences, experiential learning, vibrant campus life, career connections and leadership opportunities — all in the effort to produce graduates who improve the world.

The University offers graduate programs in 48 disciplines and trans-disciplines, covering the arts and sciences, engineering, business, journalism, health and medicine as well as fine arts. Partnerships with Brookhaven National Laboratory and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory enable the university to offer unique opportunities for students to become involved in leading-edge research and scholarship.

**Colleges and Schools**

- College of Arts and Sciences
- College of Business
- College of Engineering and Applied Sciences
- Graduate School
- Renaissance School of Medicine
- School of Communication and Journalism
- School of Dental Medicine
- School of Health Professions
- School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences
- School of Nursing
- School of Professional Development
- School of Social Welfare

**Stony Brook Medicine**

Stony Brook Medicine is one of the largest and highest quality healthcare organizations in New York – and the premier academic healthcare system in Suffolk County – offering medical and wellness care to 2.8 million residents on Long Island and beyond. With over 1,400 physicians in nearly 150 specialties, Stony Brook Medicine integrates and elevates all of Stony Brook University’s health-related initiatives: education, research and patient care. It includes the Health Sciences schools — Medicine, Dental, Health Professions, Nursing and Social Welfare — a Program in Public Health, as well as Stony Brook University Hospital, Stony Brook Children’s Hospital, Stony Brook Southampton Hospital, Stony Brook Eastern Long Island Hospital, Long Island State Veterans Home and more than 200 community-based healthcare settings throughout Suffolk County. More information about Stony Brook Medicine can be found [here](#).
The SUNY System

The State University of New York (SUNY) is a system of public institutions of higher education in 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 1.5 million students annually, employs more than 90,000 faculty and staff, and connects more than three million alumni around the world. It generates $1.7 billion annually through grants and patents and about 96,000 degrees each year. Its annual budget is $11.9 billion for 2021.

SUNY was established in 1948 through legislative implementation of recommendations made by the Temporary Commission on the Need for a State University. SUNY’s administrative offices are in Albany, the state’s capital, with satellite offices in Manhattan and Washington, D.C. More information about the SUNY System can be found here.

Leadership

Maurie McInnis, President

Maurie McInnis became the sixth President of Stony Brook University on July 1, 2020. As chief executive for Stony Brook, McInnis also oversees Stony Brook Medicine, Long Island’s premier academic medical center, which encompasses five health sciences schools, four hospitals and 200 community-based health care settings. She is a key player in furthering economic development on Long Island and in Stony Brook’s role as part of the management team of nearby Brookhaven National Laboratory, a U.S. Department of Energy facility.

McInnis brings to Stony Brook her humanist values as a renowned cultural historian of the 19th century American South, 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.

Before coming to Stony Brook, she served four years as Executive Vice President and Provost at the University of Texas at Austin (UT), a top public research university of more than 50,000 students. Prior to that, she spent nearly 20 years at the University of Virginia in various academic and administrative appointments, including Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Associate Dean for undergraduate academic programs in the College of Arts and Sciences, Director of American studies and Professor of art history. At Stony Brook, she has mobilized several key endeavors to strengthen the university, including its lauded COVID-19 response, its Strategic Budget Initiative and the university’s successful bid to become the anchor establishment for the Governors Island climate science development project in New York City.
Stony Brook, New York

The main campus of Stony Brook University is in the historic north shore hamlet of Stony Brook near the geographic midpoint of Long Island, approximately 60 miles east of Manhattan and 67 miles west of Montauk. Located on Long Island’s beautiful North Shore, the Stony Brook campus is situated on 1,039 wooded acres, encompassing its 13 schools and colleges; a research and development park; world-class athletics facilities, including an 8,300-seat stadium and a 4,000-seat arena; and Stony Brook Medicine, Long Island’s premier academic medical center. The Long Island Railroad serves the community with the Stony Brook station situated along the northern edge of the campus.

Stony Brook is in the Town of Brookhaven in Suffolk County, New York. Begun in the colonial era as an agricultural enclave, the hamlet experienced growth first as a resort town and then to its current state as one of Long Island’s major tourist towns and centers of education. The Three Village Central School District serves Setauket, East Setauket, Stony Brook, Poquott and Head of the Harbor, Old Field and portions of Port Jefferson, Saint James and South Setauket. The school district is renowned for its West Prep program, a three-year science research program that produces record numbers of Regeneron Science Talent Search semifinalists. New York City is readily accessible by the Long Island Railroad and multiple highways that extend from the city through Long Island.
Procedure for Candidacy

All applications, nominations and inquiries are invited. Applications should include, as separate documents, a CV or resume and a letter of interest addressing the themes in this profile.

WittKieffer is assisting Stony Brook University in the search. For fullest consideration, candidate materials should be received by May 13, 2024.

Application materials should be submitted using WittKieffer’s candidate portal.

Nominations and inquiries can be directed to:

John Thornburgh, Melody Rose, Ph.D., and Lauren Bruce-Stets
StonyBrookChiefDeputySVP@wittkieffer.com

Stony Brook University is committed to excellence in diversity and the creation of an inclusive learning, and working environment. All qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, pregnancy, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, disability, genetic information, veteran status, and all other protected classes under federal or state laws.