



# Position Specification

**Stony Brook University**  
Chief Innovation Officer

## The University

Stony Brook University (SBU), one of America's most dynamic public universities, is New York's flagship university and No. 1 public university. SBU is part of the State University of New York (SUNY) system, a center of academic excellence and an internationally recognized research institution that offers all students a world-class education. Stony Brook is a research-intensive distinguished center of innovation with nearly 26,000 students, over 2,700 faculty members, more than 200,000 alumni, a premier academic medical center and 18 NCAA Division I athletic programs.

The university embraces its mission to provide comprehensive undergraduate, graduate and professional education of the highest quality, fostering a commitment to academic research and intellectual endeavors. Its membership in the Association of American Universities (AAU) places it among the top 71 research institutions in North America. According to the U.S. News and World Report, SBU is ranked #58 among national universities, a 19-position jump from #77 a year ago, which had been the university's previous best ranking. SBU is also #1 among public universities in New York for the second year in a row and #26 among public universities nationwide, a five-spot increase from 2023.

Stony Brook has long been recognized as a leader supporting the social and economic mobility of its graduates and their families. The ability to create a dynamic, engaged environment that welcomes ambition has provided SBU with great forward movement in becoming one of the most prominent public flagship research universities in the nation. At Stony Brook, the innovative research taking place across campus is igniting new understanding, knowledge, and economic opportunities every day and continues to be a focus of the recently published [strategic plan](#). SBU's reputation across New York and the world has grown even more with the City of New York and The Trust for Governors Island's selection of Stony Brook University as the anchor institution for [New York Climate Exchange](#) and the recent [\\$500 million unrestricted endowment gift](#) made by the Simons Foundation.

Stony Brook's distinguished faculty have earned esteemed awards such as the Nobel Prize, Pulitzer Prize, Indianapolis Prize for animal conservation, Abel Prize and the inaugural Breakthrough Prize in Mathematics. Stony Brook has the responsibility of co-managing Brookhaven National Laboratory for the U.S. Department of Energy — one of about 13 universities with a role in running a national laboratory. Providing economic growth for neighboring communities and the wider geographic region, the university totals an impressive \$7.23 billion in increased economic output on Long Island.

### Location

The Stony Brook campus lies about 60 miles east of Manhattan and 60 miles west of Montauk Point. It is only a short distance to the Atlantic beaches of the south shore and the vineyards of the East End. Situated on 1,039 acres on the north shore of Long Island, Stony Brook University has a four-season climate, tempered by proximity to the Atlantic Ocean and Long Island Sound.

### Economic Development

As Long Island's only major SUNY research university, Stony Brook University serves as the region's hub for innovation and industry partnerships. SBU's Economic Development enterprise collaborates with the region's industry leadership and provides support to companies, entrepreneurs and start-ups, leveraging the expertise of more than 900 researchers and investigators at one of SUNY's four University Centers and nearby Brookhaven National Laboratory. SBU provides support and space for incubation and guidance for business success throughout the region. This focus is closely aligned with the University's strategic goals of expanding research, fostering entrepreneurship, expanding technology commercialization and industry partnerships, and powering the prosperity of Long Island and New York State. In the last decade, Stony Brook University performed more than 4,000 projects that helped almost 1,000 Long Island companies create nearly 20,000 jobs and generate more than a billion dollars in business activity.

The alignment of Economic Development with Stony Brook University's research enterprise leverages the world-class expertise of university researchers, unique state-of-the-art facilities and an unmatched history of collaboration to create an environment of possibilities and excitement about the future of Long Island's economy, and the opportunity for industry to get the best cutting-edge ideas by tapping into the brains of the brightest minds.

SBU has a history of collaboration with industry and market successes with translating research into positive social and economic impact. For more than three decades, Stony Brook University's Center for Biotechnology (CFB) has been translating science into opportunity, serving as an important catalyst for the development of new biomedical technologies and emerging companies in New York state. Since its inception, CFB has contributed to the development

of over a dozen FDA-approved products, including ReoPro®, Xiaflex®, Oracea®, Cavistat®, V3D®-Colon Virtual Colonoscopy and Exogen® Bone Healing System.

SBU has two New York State Centers of Excellence and two Centers for Advanced Technology (CAT) that help lead the drive toward revitalizing the Long Island economy. Incubators housed at the Centers of Excellence, the BioTech CAT, the Long Island High Tech Incubator (LIHTI) and the Calverton Food Business Incubator offer opportunities for start-ups to work with the Small Business Development Center for extensive business planning and the New York State Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program for manufacturing support. LIHTI has been named the nation's leading mixed technology incubator by the International Business Innovation Association, the incubator trade group; 55% of its graduates are still in business, a 5.5X increase over the typical success rate for startup companies. The Calverton Food Business Incubator houses over 40 start-up food companies who utilize facilities that include shared kitchen space, storage facilities, and start-up business assistance.

Stony Brook University's Strategic Partnership for Industrial Resurgence (SPIR) is moving industry toward an economy based on technical knowledge. This is seen in the development of new technologies across units such as the New York State Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology (CEWIT), which was created in 2003 as the anchoring building of Stony Brook University's research and development park, and the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center, which collaborates across several areas of importance to the Offshore Wind market. SBU further cultivates its community of entrepreneurship across the university with its Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation and the Innovation Discovery Center – designed to accommodate companies graduating from startup incubators. Additionally, SBU is an affiliate member of the National Science Foundation's I-Corps Hub in New York City, which includes local, regional, and national lean-startup training for technology teams commercializing SBU research. SBU's dedication to workforce development and professional training contributes to industry growth by training the workforce of tomorrow and leading the way for businesses to grow.

## Leadership

Appointed in July 2020, Maurie McInnis is the sixth president of Stony Brook University. As chief executive for Stony Brook, President 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 healthcare 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. Before coming to Stony Brook, she served four years as executive vice president and provost at the University of Texas at Austin and spent nearly 20 years at the University of Virginia in various academic and administrative appointments.

## The Role

In order to leverage the momentum of these areas of growth and innovation for the institution and the region, Stony Brook is launching the search for the inaugural Chief Innovation Officer (CINO), reporting directly to the President. This new position marks SBU's long-term commitment to accelerating innovation and entrepreneurship across the institution. The CINO will establish a strategy that will further establish SBU as an economic engine of positive change for the university community and beyond as well as leverage and organize the best of existing and new resources to streamline, accelerate, and support collaborative innovation efforts on campus. As a member of the president's cabinet, the inaugural Chief Innovation Officer is tasked with cultivating a culture of innovation and entrepreneurship across the campus and across stakeholders, with an emphasis on faculty and students. The CINO will be responsible for significant progress towards the President's goals of commercializing faculty and student research, catalyzing entrepreneurship and innovation on campus and in the region. In addition, the office will collaborate with departments and colleges/schools across campus to amplify the university's service to and economic impact on the region and develop partnerships with external entities that benefit the university and help advance economic development interests of external entities.

Key areas and industries represented within the university and in the area include: Artificial Intelligence, Biotech & Healthcare, Blockchain, Emerging Applied Technologies, Energy Storage, Engineering-Driven Medicine, FinTech, Offshore Wind, Quantum Information Systems, and Technology & Sustainability.

With an approximate annual budget of \$7.6 million and a team of ~64, this office focuses on innovation-led economic development, entrepreneurship, start-up company incubation, as well as outreach, education, and intellectual property

management for business/industry, higher education organizations, governments, and various communities. The team leads include:

- Associate Vice President for Technology Partnerships
- Director, Ecosystems, Growth & Impact
- Director, Intellectual Property Partners
- Executive Director, Long Island High Tech Incubator (LIHTI)
- Center Director, Small Business Development Center (SBDC)
- Executive Director, Operations
- Director, Finance
- Associate Director, Marketing and Communications
- Associate Director, Program & Project Management
- Assistant Director, Business Operations, HR

## Priorities

The CINO will provide direction and oversight of campus-wide initiatives related to innovation and economic development, including incubation and technology transfer. This leader will wield an understanding of technology-based entrepreneurship, venture capital, and other sources of startup investment, as well as research commercialization and economic development programs, particularly from the perspective of a strong R1 university.

In addition to the day-to-day responsibilities, the CINO will have the opportunity to focus on the following:

- Galvanize the entire university community – faculty, staff, students, and alumni - to establish and promote a culture of innovation and entrepreneurialism with an emphasis on translational research and social impact;
- Leverage the technology and talent of SBU through innovation in commercialization, entrepreneurship, and workforce development for the benefit of the region and beyond;
- Develop and implement an innovative and forward leaning strategy that leverages existing and new competencies and assets, supports new revenue streams, and expands upon current economic development initiatives;
- Connect needs and opportunities for academic partners with needs of corporate and community partners by identifying strong partners and soliciting industry interest and feedback;
- Engage with the venture capital community and regional entrepreneur talent pool to create a network of resources benefiting faculty and programs at SBU;
- Incentivize and support effective collaboration with and between departments and colleges/schools across campus to support and expand technology transfer efforts;
- Grow the innovation community through outreach and education and identification of promising technologies;
- Support and further develop large scale academic-industry-government partnerships;
- Lead the Office of Economic Development, which encompasses a multi-disciplinary team, and foster a sense of belonging through recruitment, retention, and development;
- Expand and augment the innovation ecosystem and initiatives in order to expand SBU's leadership and differentiation; and
- Increase awareness of SBU's role in economic development and build equity to position Stony Brook as a leader in promoting innovation and entrepreneurship across the region and beyond.

## Qualifications

A bachelor's degree is required and an advanced degree is preferred. Candidates would be expected to demonstrate a track record of leading institution-wide change management and working with diverse populations. In addition, strong candidates would demonstrate excellence in most of the following:

- Proven, hands-on leader and builder with a growth mindset and ability to open doors, make connections, and develop cross-industry partnerships;
- Prior experience working with universities in innovation ecosystem settings including research commercialization, licensing, and supporting innovative research centers;
- Visionary and adept at identifying future opportunities to deploy the University's assets in partnership with corporate, community, and other partners;
- Strong communication skills, including listening, writing, and public speaking;
- Ability to operate in an academic setting where enfranchisement of multiple constituencies is a must;

- Knowledgeable of academic and administrative structures and ability to implement programs and projects;
- High emotional intelligence; connects and builds strong relationships with others. A strong influencer;
- Experience leading teams and developing organizational structures - budgetary planning, stewardship, and expense oversight;
- Demonstrated successful experience in fundraising including grant funding or other methods of sustained resource development;
- Comfortable managing ambiguity with a track record of success with complex and challenging situations;
- Strong executive presence that exudes integrity, transparency, and competence;
- A leadership style that exemplifies careful listening, informed decisiveness, transparency, approachability, visibility, and a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

## Contact

Nominations, inquiries, and expressions of interest may be directed to [StonyBrookUniversity@russellreynolds.com](mailto:StonyBrookUniversity@russellreynolds.com).

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