

Stony Brook Urges Congress to provide at least \$155M for the National Endowments for the Humanities in FY19

Robust humanities education is critical to cultivating a broadly-educated workforce ready to compete in the knowledge-based, global 21st Century economy. From the basic building blocks of early education, to the highest levels of academic attainment, humanities fields provide individuals from all disciplines, including science, technology, engineering, & mathematics (STEM), with skills, competencies and the expertise needed by the public, private and nonprofit sectors.

Stony Brook University (SBU) remains concerned about the long-term erosion of funding for NEH competitive grant awards for nonprofit institutions and scholars. NEH competitive grants are known for their quality and ability to leverage non-federal funding. NEH grants are at one of the **lowest** funding rates in NEH's nearly 50 year history. This includes grants in the following divisions: • Research; • Education; • Preservation and Access; • Challenge Grants; • Public Programs; and • Digital Humanities.

Highlights from SBU'S Recent NEH Funded Research:

○ Archeological field school for Iraqi students and faculty in Turkey

Anthropology professor, Elizabeth Stone received an NEH grant to run a summer school in eastern Turkey. Stone's research has been directed towards the ways in which urban structures reflect the underlying social, political and economic organization of their civilizations. She is now using high resolution satellite imagery to assess both the damage to Iraq's cultural heritage as a result of war, sanctions and occupation, and to develop a new understanding of ancient Mesopotamian settlement patterns.

Potential future NEH projects to benefit SBU, Long Island, and NY:

○ Summer funding

- Summer funding is critical for faculty. Under current funding levels, the NEH has only been able to fund 9% of applications for a small amount of money (\$6000) that gets leveraged into major contributions to research, communities, and the discipline.'

○ NEH Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic-serving institutions

- In collaboration with The Humanities Institute, the Hispanic Languages and Literatures Department is proposing a large project to strengthen success-rates of SBU's Hispanic student population and to increase out-reach to the schools.

For the cost of less than 50 cents per American, NEH grants support the humanities nationwide—including history, English, and civics—which are fundamental to learning and essential for full participation in a modern democracy.