

ADVANCED ENERGY RESEARCH & TECHNOLOGY CENTER UNDERWAY Senate Secures \$35 Million and KeySpan Donates Building



September 8, 2006, Stony Brook University. Senator Kenneth P. LaValle, Senator Dean Skelos, KeySpan CEO Robert B. Catell, and Stony Brook University President, Dr. Shirley Strum Kenny today announced the opening of the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center at Stony Brook University. According to Senator LaValle, the Long Island delegation secured \$35 million in state funds for the creation of the center. The KeySpan Corporation enabled the project to get off to an immediate start by donating the use of its facility in Islandia. The mission of the Center will be to develop reliable, economical, and plentiful sources of energy generation, transmission, and distribution.

Senators LaValle and Skelos reported that the Long Island Senate delegation successfully secured \$35 million in the 2006 budget. The funds will allow Stony Brook University to move forward with plans to establish a research center designed to uncover new energy sources, while ensuring sustained economic development and the protection of our natural resources. Studies will include exploring renewable energy sources, enhancing performance of traditional fuels, and employing cutting edge fuel cell technologies. The desired outcome is cheaper, cleaner energy that will generate an economic resurgence for New York State.

“Building a diverse, high-tech economy is critically-important to Long Island’s future,” said Senator Dean G. Skelos (R-Rockville Centre). “Through the \$35 million secured by Senator LaValle and Long Island’s State Senate Delegation, the new Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center will establish our region at the forefront of this burgeoning sector, enhance our energy supply, and create exciting new career opportunities for local students.”

“I am very excited by the many opportunities that will result from the creation of the Center,” said Yacov Shamash, Vice President of Economic Development at Stony Brook University. “Functioning as a partnership of colleges and universities, industry, and research laboratories, the Center will act as a focus for the many energy related research and development projects currently underway on Long

Island. The Center will promote the region as a major hub for research and technology transfer in alternative energy sources. While there are many benefits accruing from the Center, especially important are the fostering of collaborative activities between Center partners that will promote efforts to seek additional research funding to develop technologies that will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels. This effort cannot but help to generate new high paying jobs on Long Island."

"The work that will be done at the Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center will reduce our dependence on foreign oil and ensure we are able to meet the increasing demand for energy here on Long Island in the most efficient environmentally sensitive manner," said Robert B. Catell, Chairman and CEO of KeySpan. "The support given to this initiative by the New York State Senate delegation, led by Deputy Majority Leader Dean Skelos and Senator Ken LaValle, was a critical component in ensuring that this vision becomes a reality."

"We are in dire need of new energy sources to fulfill the ever-increasing demand for power in New York State and, particularly, Long Island," said Senator LaValle. "We are fortunate to have among us some of the most renowned research institutions in the nation. The Center will take advantage of our assets by collaborating with the brightest and the best from the education, research, and business communities to create a more efficient and cost effective source of energy, which will, in turn, contribute to our economic growth."