

To: All Faculty

Dear Colleagues,

I am very pleased to announce a major new interdisciplinary initiative to develop a Consortium for Digital Arts, Culture, and Technology (C-DACT) at Stony Brook University. This initiative is a response to the digital revolution that is transforming the contemporary world and creating new educational and professional opportunities. Professor Christa Erickson of the Art Department has agreed to direct the initiative. An advisory committee is also being organized to promote broad campus participation.

The initiative will begin with at least six new cross-disciplinary faculty appointments, including digital artists, musicians, scholars and technology researchers. A CAS/CEAS central search committee is now being formed along with departmental search committees in Art, Music, Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies, and Computer Science.

Next year, we will begin developing an interdepartmental undergraduate major in Digital Media Studies and a graduate certificate program in Digital Arts, Culture, and Technology to help our students capitalize on these new opportunities. In addition, we will begin the creation of a Center including faculty offices, labs, and other spaces for research, creation, and performance/exhibition. Events are being planned including lectures, demonstrations, exhibitions, and performances. A major conference with the Humanities Institute is also being organized for the following year.

This initiative was proposed by a coalition of faculty from CAS departments together with input from Computer Science and direction from the FAHSS Steering Committee, co-chaired by Professors Femi Vaughan and John Lutterbie. It has grown out of collaborations and conversations that span a decade in the arts, which have grown substantively in the humanities and across the campus to technology innovations in the CEAS. The initiative is generating excitement and enthusiasm in all sectors of the University involved thus far, and I expect this endeavor to draw on the professional expertise and intellectual engagement of the wider University community.

Sincerely,

Robert L. McGrath

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs