

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## Encouraging Young Women to Run for Office



**STONY BROOK, NY; February 2014** – On Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, Legislator Sarah Anker encouraged female students to take an active role in government by participating in the *Elect Her* training program at Stony Brook University. Legislator Anker, along with Councilwoman Valerie Cartwright, met with young women to discuss the growing need for women in government.

“In 1979, only 3% of the members of US Congress were women. Today, that figure has climbed to 18.5%, but there is still room for improvement,” said Legislator Anker. “I encourage all students of Stony Brook, especially female students, to become involved campus government activities and to continue striving for leadership positions after college.”

Sponsored by the American Association of University Women, the *Elect Her* workshop aims to close the political gender gap by empowering young women to run for office at all levels. The training program was brought to the university by the support of the Dean of Students Office and the Smithtown chapter of AAUW. For more information about *Elect Her*, visit [www.aauw.org](http://www.aauw.org).