Supervisor Mark Lesko welcomed 19 government workers from the province of Guizhou, China who visited Town Hall as part of a 6-month program at Stony Brook University where they are learning about the management and operation of government in the United States. The workers, who come from all different walks of life, included 3 PhD students, four lawyers, a judge, a college professor, a newspaper chief editor and a number of corporate CEO's.

During their visit, the students were given a tour of Town Hall by Chief of Staff Brian Beedenbender and Economic Development Coordinator Paul Pontieri. Afterwards, Supervisor Lesko spent time answering their questions and discussing how local government works, including planning and zoning, code enforcement, and how Town government works with the County and State government.

"It was a pleasure to meet with the students, who were interested about how local government works in the United States, especially Brookhaven's strategies for business development," said Supervisor Lesko, "They had quite a few good questions and it was also a learning experience for us at Town Hall." Marypat Taveras from the Department of Technology and Society at Stony Brook University said, "The group enjoyed the discussion and were very pleased with Supervisor Lesko's presentation. The Chinese delegation was extremely pleased with the responses they received to their questions about how the local government works and who makes the decisions about the general welfare of the Town's many residents. They were particularly interested in the role, structure and scope of the local government and the relationship between the local government and the county, state and federal governments. Again, we thank you for hosting this special presentation."