

Presidential Investiture of Cynthia Teniente-Matson, Ed.D.

February 22, 2024 Hammer Theatre Center



## **Investiture**

The investiture of Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson as San José State University's 31st president, and first Latina president, celebrates the university's storied 167-year history and SJSU's bright future as the anchor institution of the epicenter of the future.

President Teniente-Matson was appointed by the California State University (CSU) Board of Trustees on November 16, 2022, and began her new role on January 16, 2023. Through the investiture ceremony, the CSU Board of Trustees formally invests in President Teniente-Matson the authority of the presidency at SJSU.

An investiture is defined as the "formal ceremony of conferring the authority and symbols of high office." One of the oldest traditions in academia dating back to the Middle Ages, the word investiture comes from the Latin phrase for "dress in robe." The investiture ceremony includes many academic traditions and protocols.

The medallion presented to President Teniente-Matson was designed by Yvonne Escalante, '13 MFA Spatial Arts, and includes a silver weaving to represent SJSU as a tapestry of innovation, an image of Tower Hall and the number 1857, the year San José State University was established.

An investiture serves as an opportunity to bring the community together to welcome a new era. SJSU appreciates the members of the community who are in attendance today to commemorate this momentous occasion.



# **About SJSU**

In many ways, SJSU is the original Silicon Valley startup, the birthplace of what would become the 23-campus CSU system. Established in 1857, SJSU is the oldest public higher education institution in California. More than 160 years later, we are a vibrant and diverse urban campus in a world-renowned location driving innovation that touches every corner of the globe.

With approximately 36,000 students and nearly 4,300 employees, SJSU is an essential partner in the economic, cultural and social development of Silicon Valley and California. Offering bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in 250 areas of study through nine colleges, students at SJSU engage in meaningful, hands-on learning as early as their first semester on campus. A growing research powerhouse, SJSU students can develop methods to track wildfires and predict their behavior at the Wildfire Interdisciplinary Research Center, explore marine life at Moss Landing Marine Laboratories, learn to fly at the only aviation school on the West Coast, work with Nobel Prize-winning scientists, push the performing arts to new heights at the Hammer Theatre, and much more.

The only public university in Silicon Valley, SJSU has more than 350,000 alumni who are innovators and leaders in the region, state, nation and around the world. Companies in Silicon Valley employ more graduates from SJSU than from any other university in the U.S., and we are the number one source of graduates in education, engineering, computer science and business in the Valley.



# **Biography of Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson**

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson serves as the 31st president of San José State University. An internationally-recognized Latina leader, President Teniente-Matson is a champion of student success initiatives; diversity, equity and inclusion; civic engagement; and experiential learning.

Throughout her career that spans more than 30 years in higher education, President Teniente-Matson has always put students first, engaging in strategic partnerships and serving on numerous national educational-governing and civic boards geared toward enhancing the student experience. This is a return to the California State University system for President Teniente-Matson, who served as Vice President for Administration and Chief Financial Officer at California State University, Fresno from 2004 to 2015.

Prior to her appointment at SJSU in January 2023, President Teniente-Matson led Texas A&M University-San Antonio from 2015 to 2023. As the second president in the university's history, President Teniente-Matson spearheaded the growth of the campus into a comprehensive master's university while earning the U.S. Department of Education Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) designation and the Seal of Excelencia, awarded to 24 universities nationwide. She established several key initiatives for the university, including the Mays Center for Experiential Learning and Community Engagement, Cisneros Institute for Emerging Leaders, Institute of Water Resource Science and Technology, Cyber Engineering Technology & Cyber Security Research Center, the



NSA Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education and the sole Texas Facebook CyberSecurity University Program.

President Teniente-Matson is a renowned public speaker and has delivered keynotes at national conferences regarding contemporary issues in higher education, risk management, women's leadership, and Latina/Latino leadership. In 2022, the White House Office of Presidential Personnel appointed her as Commissioner to the Japan U.S. Friendship Commission and a panelist to CULCON, a State Department Japan-U.S. Binational Governance Commission. Currently, she serves as past chair of the Board of Directors for the American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU), a university presidents and chancellors membership association; is a board member of the American Council on Education and the Girl Scouts USA National Board; and is a member of the HSI-Educational Testing Service (ETS) Steering Committee and LiftFund.

President Teniente-Matson earned her Bachelor of Arts in Management from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, her Master of Business Administration from the University of Alaska Anchorage and a doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University, Fresno. She and her husband Mike have two sons: Phillip and Wyatt. She enjoys writing, traveling, and outdoor activities such as biking and boating.

# **Investiture Ceremony Order**

## **Processional**

SJSU Spartan Marching Band

## Welcome Remarks

Vincent Del Casino, Jr., SJSU Provost and Senior Vice President of Academic Affairs

# Land Acknowledgement

**Joseph Torres,** Ambassador, Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area

# National Anthem and Presentation of Colors SJSU Choraliers and ROTC

# **Introduction of Platform Party**

## **Century of Spartans Poem**

Keith Sanders, '81, Radio, Television & Film

## Greetings

Karthika Sasikumar, Chair, SJSU Academic Senate Harish Chandar, Chair, SJSU Staff Council Janikke Klem, President, SJSU Alumni Association Board Sarab Multani, President, Associated Students

## **Performance**

SJSU Choraliers

## Greetings

Soraya M. Coley, President, Cal Poly Pomona Dominic Treseler, President, California State Student Association Susan Ellenberg, President, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors Cindy Chavez, '87 Political Science, Santa Clara County Supervisor

#### Remarks

Wenda Fong, Chair, California State University Board of Trustees

# **Chancellor Remarks and Presentation of Medallion**

Mildred García, Chancellor, California State University

## **Investiture Address**

Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President, San José State University

## Alma Mater and End of Ceremony

SJSU Choraliers and SJSU Spartan Marching Band

# **Platform Party**

# **CSU Board of Trustees**

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# **Community College**

Beatriz Chaidez - Interim Chancellor, San Jose Evergreen Community College District Bradley Davis - Chancellor, West Valley-Mission Charles Sasaki - President and Superintendent, Ohlone Community College District Community College District

## SJSU President's Cabinet

Mohamed Abousalem, Vice President for Research and Innovation Vincent Del Casino, Jr., Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs Kristin Dukes, Chief Diversity Officer Charlie Faas, Vice President for Administration and Finance Mari Fuentes-Martin, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs Jeff Konya, Athletics Director Bob Lim, Vice President for Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Judy Nagai, Vice President for University Advancement and CEO for Tower Foundation

# **Members of SJSU Community**

Harish Chandar, Chair, Staff Council Janikke Klem, President, SJSU Alumni Association Board Sarab Multani, President, Associated Students Karthika Sasikumar, Chair, Academic Senate Dominic Treseler, President, Cal State Student Association

## **Past Presidents**

George W. Minns, Principal (1857-1862 and 1865-1866) Minns' Evening Normal School

Ahira Holmes, Principal (1862-1865) California State Normal School

Henry P. Carlton, Principal (1866-1867 and Feb.-May 1868) California State Normal School

George E. Tait, Principal (July 1867-February 1868) California State Normal School

William T. Lucky, Principal (May 18689-Aug. 1873) California State Normal School

Charles H. Allen, Principal (1873-1889) San José State Normal School

Charles Childs, Principal (1889-1900) San José State Normal School

Ambrose Randall, Principal (1896-1899) San José State Normal School

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- Steve Perez, Interim President (Jan. 2022-Dec. 2022) San José State University

# **The Academic Regalia**

The history of academic dress can be traced back to medieval European universities. It is likely that because students enjoyed the status of clerics, their dress was patterned after clerical dress. The gown appears to be an adaptation of a priest's robe, with the hood and mortarboard evolved from the cowl and skullcap worn by monks and friars.

## The Gown

The gown is traditionally black, except when universities have authorized the use of color in gowns. The pattern varies with the degree held: pointed sleeves for the bachelor's degree; oblong sleeves for the master's degree; and round, full sleeves for the doctoral degree. Only the doctoral gown is trimmed with three bars of velvet on the sleeves and velvet facing down the front.

Although black velvet is proper trimming for all doctoral gowns, the color of the panels and bars is often varied to indicate the academic discipline in which the doctoral degree is earned.

#### The Hood

The shape and length of the hood reflect the highest degree held. The color of the velvet trim indicates the field of study and the color and design of the lining designate the college or university granting the degree. The master's hood is lined in gold, white and blue at San José State.

## The Cap

A black mortarboard or tam is the accepted style in colleges and universities in the United States. Many international universities have distinctive and colorful forms of headdress.

## The Tassel

An integral part of the headdress, the tassel varies widely in use and color. For doctoral degrees, a gold tassel is usually worn, although black is acceptable. At San José State, master's graduates wear a black tassel, and candidates receiving bachelor's degrees use the color associated with the college in which the degree is earned.



## **The Mace**

An ornamental staff or scepter, the mace is carried by officials as part of formal parliamentary or academic ceremonies. The university's ceremonial mace was designed and created by Yvonne Escalante, '13 MFA Spatial Arts.

Each part of the mace represents an element of the student's journey and connection to the legacy and traditions of the university. Holding the mace together is the "spark," symbolizing the individual power of each Spartan to create their own path and to make the world a better place.

# The seven parts of the SJSU mace are:

- · Head
- Vessel
- · Ribbons
- · Coins
- Support
- Staff
- Spark



# The President's Medallion

A medallion or seal of office worn by the head of an educational institution is a practice that dates back to the Middle Ages. Suspended by a chain and worn on official occasions with academic dress, it is conferred by the chancellor, investing the president with the authority and responsibility of the office. The medallion reflects the institution, the office and the holder of the office.

Fabricated and cast by Yvonne Escalante, '13 MFA Spatial Arts, in the jewelry and small metals facility, the exquisite intricacies of the medallion showcase SJSU's rich history and bright future as a tapestry of innovation.

The artwork on the medallion includes a silver weaving of a V-shape, meant to symbolize both Santa Clara Valley's historic orchards — known as "The Valley of the Heart's Delight" — and Silicon Valley, the global heart of innovation. The central woven pattern draws from the brick and tile patterns on Tower Hall and is meant to symbolize the foundation, tradition, strength, unity, and diverse community coming together for a common goal. Tower Hall is also etched into the sterling silver plate of the medallion. The 1857 on the medallion references the year San José State University was founded.

# **Delegates**

# The Board of Trustees of the California State University

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Vice President for Research and Innovation

#### Vincent Del Casino, Jr.

Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

#### **Kristin Dukes**

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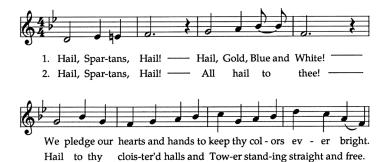
Jennifer Malutta
Interim Chief of Staff

# Judy Nagai

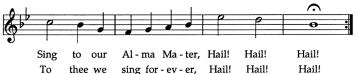
Vice President for University Advancement and CEO for Tower Foundation

# **SJSU Alma Mater**

Hail, Spartans, Hail!—
Hail, gold, blue and white!
We pledge our hearts and hands to keep thy colors ever bright.
Forward we go! We will not fail!
Sing to our Alma Mater,
Hail! Hail! Hail!







#### **Thank You**

Thank you to the following committees and teams for their tireless efforts in planning this Investiture celebration:

#### **Investiture Executive Committee**

Magdalena Barrera, Patience Bryant, Mark Carpowich, Sonja Daniels, Kristin Dukes, Michelle Frey, Amy Guerra-Smith, Doug Hupke, Sabrina-Moné Lamontagne, Khristine Lugo, Scott MacDonald, Jennifer Malutta, Ken Mashinchi, Michelle Smith McDonald, Judy Nagai, Zaynna Tello

# **Investiture Working Group Committee**

Mark Carpowich, Eric Cross, Sonja Daniels, Traci Ferdolage, Michelle Frey, Amy Guerra-Smith, Doug Hupke, Kenne Jackson, Sabrina-Moné Lamontagne, Kingson Leung, Khristine Lugo, Holly Quinones, Michael Santos, Karthika Sasikumar, Michael Smoose, Edwin Tan, Ryan M. Ward

## **Special Events**

## **University Advancement**

# **University Marketing and Communications**

Thank you to those who supported this event with the generosity of their time and financial support. This event would not have been a success without you — Spartans are better together! No state funds were used for this event.

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