

# SJSU | HEALTH TECHQUITY CONFERENCE

COLLEGE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SCIENCES

Theme: Behavioral Health in the Age of Emerging Technology

Date: March 4 – 5, 2026

## Day 1: Foundations, Tensions, and Possibilities

<b>8:15 am – 8:45 am: Check-in &amp; Morning Reception</b>	
Light Breakfast, Coffee & Networking	Student Union Ballroom A & B
<b>8:45 am – 9:00 am: Welcome &amp; Position</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 8:45 – 8:50 – E-Welcome               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren and Senator Alex Padilla</b></li> </ul> </li> <li>• 8:50 – 8:56 – <b>President Cynthia Teniente-Matson</b></li> <li>• 8:57 – 9:00 – Introduction to the Conference and Plenary               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Dr. Audrey Shillington</b>, Dean of CHHS</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A & B
<b>9:00 am – 9:50 am: Framing Health TechQuity in Behavioral Health</b>	
<p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NIMHD Perspectives on Technology in Behavioral Health Disparities: <b>Dr. Monica Webb Hooper, Ph.D.</b>, Acting Director, National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities</li> <li>• California’s Behavioral Health Transformation: Progress and Vision: <b>Marlies Perez, MA</b>, Behavioral Health Transformation Project Executive, California Department of Health Care Services</li> <li>• Ideas into Action: <b>Dr. Russell Shilling, Ph.D.</b> - Senior Innovation Advisor, ShillingForge Consulting, LLC.</li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A & B
<b>10:00 am – 11:30 am: Opening Panel – Population Behavioral &amp; Mental Health</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Thinker) <b>Dr. Brendon Hale, Ph.D.</b>- Chief Science and Product Officer, Sidekick Wellness</li> <li>• (Innovator) <b>Dr. Trevor van Mierlo, Ph.D.</b>- CEO/Founder Evolution Health</li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A & B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Innovator) <b>Anupam Khandelwal</b> - CEO and Co-Founder SageSurfer</li> <li>• (Doer) <b>Michael B. Scates</b> - President and CEO, Momentum for Health</li> <li>• (Moderator) <b>Kunal Sampat</b>, Director, Biotechnology, San José State University; Host, Clinical Trial Podcast</li> </ul>	
<b>11:30 am – 12:00 pm: Break – Grab Your Lunch Box</b>	
	Student Union Ballroom B
<b>12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Session 1A – Applied Dialogue &amp; Networking Lunch</b>	
<p><b>Title:</b> Implementation of California’s Behavioral Health Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Innovator) <b>Dr. Guy Tsafnt, Ph.D.</b> - Founder &amp; CEO <a href="#">Evidentli</a></li> <li>• (Thinker) <b>Marlies Perez, MA</b>, - Chief of Community Services, California Department of Health Care Services</li> <li>• (Doer) <b>Ryan Mosley</b> – Medi-Cal Enterprise Systems Modernization Division Chief, Behavioral Health Transformation Project Director, California Department of Health Care Services</li> <li>• (Doer) <b>Ria Paul, MD</b>, Chief Medical Officer, Santa Clara Family Health Plan</li> <li>• (Moderator) <b>Dr. Joseph G. Grzywacz</b>, San José State University</li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A
<b>12:00 pm – 1:30 pm: Session 1B – Applied Dialogue &amp; Networking Lunch</b>	
<p><b>Title:</b> Digital Tools for Loneliness in Special Populations (Older Adults &amp; People with ASD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Innovator) <b>Victor Wang</b> - CoFounder, Friendi.fi</li> <li>• (Thinker) <b>Dr. Lawrence Quill, Ph.D.</b> - False Starts and Ongoing Problems</li> <li>• (Doer) <b>Dr. Lauren Libero, Ph.D.</b> - Autism Services Branch Lead, California Department of Developmental Services; <b>Alison Giannini, M.S., BCBA.</b>, Aging Services Branch Manager, California Department of Developmental Services</li> <li>• (Moderator) <b>Dr. Julia Scott, Ph.D.</b> - Santa Clara University</li> </ul>	Meeting Room 2
<b>1:30 pm – 1:45 pm: Break</b>	
<b>1:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Session 2A – Emerging Topics &amp; Tools</b>	
<p><b>Title:</b> Digital Twins: An Emerging Behavioral Health Tool</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Innovator) <b>Tony Clark</b>, Founder and CEO at 2-Dooz, Inc</li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Thinker) <b>Dr. Amir Rahmani, Ph.D.</b> - Professor, Donald Bren School of Information and Computer Sciences, University of California, Irvine</li> <li>• (Thinker) <b>Dr. Alhassan S. Yasin, Ph.D.</b> - Co-founder/CEO @ Carol (Care for All), Senior Research Scientist, Johns Hopkins University</li> <li>• (Doer) <b>Michael B. Scates</b> - President and CEO, Momentum for Health</li> <li>• (Moderator) <b>Kunal Sampat</b>, Director, Biotechnology, San José State University; Host, Clinical Trial Podcast</li> </ul>	
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**1:45 pm – 3:15 pm: Session 2B – Emerging Topics & Tools**

<p><b>Title:</b> Strategies for Advancing Women’s Health</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• (Innovator) <b>Georgie Drury</b> - CoFounder &amp; Ceo MetLuma</li> <li>• (Thinker) <b>Dr. Kasuen Maldin, Ph.D.</b>, Professor of Nutrition, Food Science &amp; Packaging, SJSU</li> <li>• (Doer) <b>Tony Maddox</b>,</li> <li>• (Moderator) <b>Dr. Sohela Shah, Ph.D.</b>- Director, Catalyst Program &amp; Invent Fund, University of California, San Francisco</li> </ul>	Meeting Room 2
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**3:15 pm – 3:30 pm: Break**

**3:30 pm – 4:45 pm: Session 3: Innovation Spotlight**

<p><b>Title:</b> Innovations That Could Close a Gap</p> <p><b>Innovators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol (Care for All), Junaid Ahmed, Co-founder/CTO @ Carol, Assistant professor at Johns Hopkins University</li> <li>• Emotional Robot I, Dr. Behin Elahi</li> <li>• Emotional Robot II, Dr. Behin Elahi</li> <li>• Positive Approach XR, Nora Reder, Student Developer, University of California, Berkeley</li> <li>• FairScan, Christelle Mombo-Zigah, CEO &amp; CoFounder</li> <li>• Biometric Trafikking, Harold Francisco</li> </ul> <p><b>Panelists</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jon Warner</b>, CEO of CareAxis, Inc, Founder and Executive Chairman of the Dealstream, US Ambassador, Global Health Director</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Christina Keny, Ph.D.</b>, Clinical Research Scientist in AgeTech and Digital Health at Samsung Research America</li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A & B
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Russell Shilling, Ph.D.</b> - Senior Innovation Advisor, ShillingForge Consulting, LLC.</li> <li>• <b>Travis Millman</b>, CEO at Valley of Death Partners, and Deep Tech Startup Sherpa</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Michael Dao, Ph.D.</b> - Associate Professor of Kinesiology; Director, Human Rights Institute</li> <li>• <b>Emily Hu</b>, Medtech and Healthtech Operator, Advisor, Consultant, and Investor, specializing in clinical and regulatory strategy</li> </ul>	
<b>4:45 pm – 5:00 pm: Reflections &amp; Day 1 Wrap</b>	
<b>Facilitated synthesis of key insights</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Invite contributions to 'Equity-in-Tech Ideas Wall'</li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A & B
<b>5:00 pm – 6:30 pm: Evening Reception &amp; Networking Mixer</b>	
Hosted reception with appetizers and drinks	Student Union Ballroom C

## Day 2: Synthesis, Strategy, and Action

<b>8:30 am – 9:00 am: Check-in &amp; Morning Reception</b>	
Light Breakfast, Coffee & Networking	Student Union Ballroom A & B
<b>9:00 am – 9:50 am: Opening Plenary</b>	
<b>Title:</b> Sticky Issues in Technology for Health Equity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delivery System Transformation and its Impact on Mental Health: <b>Dr. Sunita Desai, Ph.D.</b>, Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health, New York University Grossman School of Medicine</li> <li>• Sticky Issues in Technology Solutions to Equity in Healthcare and Workforce Development: <b>Dr. Prashanth Asuri, Ph.D.</b>, Professor of Bioengineering in the School of Engineering and Director of Santa Clara's Healthcare Innovation and Design Program, Santa Clara University</li> </ul>	Student Union Ballroom A & B
<b>9:50 am – 10:00 am: Break</b>	
<b>10:00 am – 11:30 am: Session 1A: Nitty-Gritty Issues</b>	
<b>Title:</b> What Will It Take to Scale Equitable Solutions? <b>Format:</b> Fireside chat panel <b>Participants:</b>	Student Union Ballroom A & B

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trevor van Mierlo, Ph.D.</b> - CEO/Founder Evolution Health</li> <li>• <b>Soody Tronson, M.S., J.D.</b>, Managing Counsel, STLG Law Firm</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Russell Shilling, Ph.D.</b> - Senior Innovation Advisor, ShillingForge Consulting, LLC.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Kakoli Banerjee, MPA, Ph.D.</b> - Director of Planning, Development, &amp; Implementation, Pathways Society, Santa Clara County.</li> <li>• <b>Eisha Buch, M.S.</b>, Head of Teaching and Learning, Common Sense Media</li> <li>• (Moderator): <b>Travis Millman</b>, CEO at Valley of Death Partners, and Deep Tech Startup Sherpa</li> </ul>	
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**10:00 am – 11:30 am: Session 1B: Looking Forward**

<p><b>Title:</b> Preparing Tomorrow’s Workforce, Today</p> <p><b>Format:</b> Fireside chat panel</p> <p><b>Participants:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dr. Mary Crocker Cook, Ph.D., D.Min., LMFT, LAADC</b>, San José City College Alcohol and Drug Studies Program Coordinator, Santa Clara County Workforce Advisory Committee</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Bobbi Makani, Ph.D.</b>, Executive Director of the Career Center at San José State University. Dr. Makani holds two doctoral degrees, one in Digital Online Learning and another in Management.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Brendon Hale, Ph.D.</b> - Chief Science and Product Officer, Sidekick Wellness</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Alhassan S. Yasin, Ph.D.</b> - Co-founder/CEO @ Carol (Care for All), Senior Research Scientist, Johns Hopkins University.</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Ellen Middaugh, Ph.D.</b> Associate Professor of Child and Adolescent Development, San José State University; Co-PI CLARION (Civic Literacy, Action, and Reasoning in Online Networks)</li> <li>• (Moderator): <b>Dr. Laurie Drabble, Ph.D.</b>, Director of the Center for Applied Research in Human Services, College of Health and Human Sciences, San José State University</li> </ul>	<p>Meeting Room 2</p>
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**11:30 am – 11:45 : Break**

**11:45 am – 12:00 pm: Closing Remarks & Next Steps**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommit to unifying goals</li> <li>• Announce post-conference brief, follow-ups</li> </ul>	<p>Student Union Ballroom A &amp; B</p>
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Appreciation + call to collective leadership</li></ul> |  |
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