

# Press Release

## San José State University relaunches Survey and Policy Research Institute (SPRI) with town hall meeting

### Student survey results will be presented in advance of first presidential debate

San Jose, CA, October 13, 2008: The Survey and Policy Research Institute at San José State University will make public recent survey results from a poll among the current student body and alumni regarding presidential preferences. This presentation will precede the final presidential debate between John McCain and Barack Obama on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, starting at 5:00pm at the Engineering Auditorium, Room 189, on campus. Following the debate there will be a moderated Town Hall meeting where students will voice their reactions, concerns, and thoughts on how well the candidates addressed the most critical issues.

This event will mark the official re-launch of SPRI, which is positioning itself as a self-sustaining full service custom research organization. "The Institute has for several years been a strategic resource for the San José State Community", said Tim Hegstrom, Dean of the School of Social Sciences, "but past work has failed to fully leverage our talents and resources. We've taken a look at San José State's unique position here in the Silicon Valley and we think that by broadening our emphasis to include a full service research organization, we can effectively inform political, social policy and critical business issues".

Melinda Jackson, Assistant Professor, Political Science is the new research director of SPRI and is very intent on ensuring the organization effectively serves to connect faculty research expertise with consulting projects that benefit the broader Silicon Valley community. "SPRI offers a unique opportunity to engage faculty and students in the work of applied research and use the institute's capacity to serve a broad range of local research needs," Jackson added, "the diverse population of the San José State campus offers both government agencies and local businesses a real advantage in conducting culturally appropriate projects".

For more information contact Melinda Jackson at 408.924.5293, or email to [Melinda.Jackson@sjsu.edu](mailto:Melinda.Jackson@sjsu.edu). Survey results will also be posted on SPRI's new website at [www.sjsu.edu/spri](http://www.sjsu.edu/spri).