

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President

Dear Spartan Community,

As we begin this year's Legacy Month, I invite all students, faculty, and staff to join together in celebrating the rich history, diverse traditions, and enduring values that define San José State University. Legacy Month 2024 offers us the opportunity to reflect on the profound impact of our campus heroes, the strength of our community, and the importance of creating lasting change.

This year, we have the extraordinary privilege of hosting two Spartan icons, Tommie Smith and John Carlos, as part of Legacy Month 2024. Their courageous stand for racial equality at the 1968 Olympic Games continues to inspire the fight for justice today. Their iconic raised fists remain a symbol of activism, sacrifice, and the quest for human rights on our campus—a powerful reminder of the impact of action in the face of adversity. Throughout Legacy Month, we will have several opportunities to engage with their story and learn how we can continue their work in building a more just society.

Throughout the month, we will highlight key events hosted by the **César Chávez Community Action Center** and other campus partners, including:

Legacy Month Speaker: Dr. Angela Davis

Thursday, October 3 | 5:30-7:00 pm

A Fireside Chat with John Carlos

Tuesday, October 8 | 11:00-12:00 pm

Day of Action: Continuing the Smith and Carlos Legacy

Wednesday, October 16 | 10:00-11:30 am

A Fireside Chat with Tommie Smith

Wednesday, October 16 | 3:30-4:30 pm

I encourage all Spartans to participate in these events, engage with the history that has shaped our campus, and continue building on the legacy of those who came before us. This is a time for reflection, unity, and action—let's come together and celebrate the enduring spirit of SJSU.

For more information on Legacy Month events, please visit the [Legacy Month website](#) or check out our [Campus Traditions](#) to learn more about the people and stories that make our university great.

Thank you for being part of this legacy. I look forward to seeing you at the events!

Sincerely,

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson
President
(She/Her/Ella)

