



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President

Dear Spartan Community,

Activism is woven into the fabric of San José State University, representing a core part of who we are as a community. As we reflect on this, we honor two of our most powerful symbols of social action – Tommie Smith and John Carlos. Their raised fists during the 1968 Olympics sent a resounding message for human rights, one that continues to inspire the pursuit for justice, equality, and the pursuit of peace.

In recognition of their legacy, we are proud to recognize today as **Smith and Carlos Day of Action**. This day reminds us not only of the power of peaceful protest but also of our responsibility to take meaningful action in our communities. The example set by Smith and Carlos more than five decades ago urges us to uphold the values of equity and human dignity – ideals that inform our commitment to the movement for social justice, inclusion, and equity.

Last week, we were deeply honored to host John Carlos on campus, where he shared his powerful experiences with our students and community. Today, we are thrilled to welcome Tommie Smith, who will continue this meaningful conversation with our campus. Their presence during Legacy Month is a cherished gift, and we deeply value the opportunity to learn from their remarkable journeys. We encourage you to explore more about their lives and activism. Visit the Associated Students [Legacy Month website](#) for details on upcoming events.

One impactful way you can continue their legacy is by registering to vote. By exercising your right to vote, you bring your values to the ballot box, and help shape a more just society. If you have yet to register, please use [this link](#) to get registered. The deadline to register to vote and receive a vote-by-mail ballot is October 21st. Get registered to make sure your voice is heard.

Let's stand together in the spirit of Smith and Carlos – using our voices and our votes to drive meaningful change in our world.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia Teniente-Matson".

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

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