



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President

Dear Spartan Community,

Today, I find myself reflecting on the remarkable legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., a visionary who dedicated his life to the pursuit of justice, equality, and a brighter future for all. His words, "We must accept finite disappointment, but never lose infinite hope," resonate deeply with me. They remind us that, despite the challenges we face, we each hold the power to inspire hope—hope that fuels our actions and shapes the lives of students.

Dr. King's life's work offers a powerful lens through which we can consider leadership and transition. It's fitting that today also marks the inauguration of Donald J. Trump, the 47th president of the United States, a moment focused on the future. As we witness this transfer of leadership, it's a poignant reminder that democracy is not a spectator sport. Each of us, through our daily actions, our advocacy for justice, and our commitment to the greater good, contributes to the story of our nation.

At San José State University, we carry Dr. King's legacy forward every day through our commitment to fairness, belonging, and the pursuit of opportunity for all. Our history is rich with examples of courageous action, from the iconic activism of Tommie Smith and John Carlos, whose raised fists at the 1968 Olympics became a global symbol of solidarity, months after Dr. King's assassination, to the ongoing efforts of our university community to drive meaningful change.

Dr. King's message of unity and justice is as relevant today as it was decades ago. His legacy challenges us to build bridges—within our classrooms, across our campus, and in the communities we serve. Let's take a moment to reflect on Dr. King's enduring wisdom. Let his words remind us of the infinite hope that sustains us in challenging times and inspires us to lead with courage and conviction.

Together, as Spartans, we can ensure his dream remains alive—not just in our hearts, but in our actions as a community of students, faculty, and staff, empowering one another on our educational journeys.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson

President

(She/Her/Ella)

