



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President

Dear Spartan Community,

As we enter our Fall Commencement Week—a time filled with pride, achievement, and meaningful reflection—I am reminded of the extraordinary strength and spirit that defines our university community. This week offers us the joy of celebrating our graduates, whose hard work and perseverance have brought them to this pivotal moment. It is a time to honor their accomplishments and to look ahead with hope and optimism. It is also a time to express gratitude for our dedicated faculty and staff, whose tireless efforts have made student successes possible.

In this season of celebration and transition, I recognize that many in our community are navigating complex emotions. As we celebrate achievements, we are also processing this week's tragic events and our desire for a kinder, more just world. We are reminded daily—when we pass the Smith and Carlos statues on our campus—that we are a university that honors peaceful expression of convictions and respect for human dignity, while we reject violence and hatred in all their forms. Our university is a place where we meet complexity with compassion—where we celebrate achievements while supporting one another through difficult times.

As we gather for ceremonies, receptions, and activities throughout the week, I ask each of us to look out for one another. We will be welcoming many guests to join in our campus celebrations this week, and the well-being and safety of our community remain our top priority. *Please stay aware of your surroundings, take care of yourselves and your peers, and remember the simple but powerful principle: if you see something, say something.* Your attentiveness helps keep our campus safe for everyone.

Let us move through this week with both joy and mindfulness—celebrating the achievements of our graduates while remaining united, vigilant, and supportive of one another.

Spartans take care of Spartans. Thank you for all you contribute to making this university a community of care, resilience, and purpose.

With appreciation,

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

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson

President

(She/Her/Ella)

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