

The Psi Chi International Honor Society &
Psychology Department of San José State University Present:

69TH ANNUAL STUDENT RESEARCH CONFERENCE

SPARC 2026

Monday, April 20th, Student Union Rooms 3 & 4

Since 1957, the Spartan Psychological Association Research Conference (SPARC) has offered undergraduate and graduate student researchers in psychology and related fields the opportunity to present their research. Over the years, SPARC has grown into one of the preeminent regional forums for student presentations in psychology.

2026 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

EMPOWERMENT IS FOR THE PEOPLE! A COMMUNITY-PSYCHOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE



Dr. Erin Rose Ellison

Associate Professor
California State University, Sacramento
Associate Editor
Journal of Community Psychology

As a critical social-community psychologist, Dr. Ellison focuses her work on empowerment, student success, community engagement, diversity, and inclusion. She uses participatory action research (PAR) to honor the expertise and perspectives of those most affected by a social issue. Her research examines processes, settings, and relationships supporting the development and exercise of the power to make social change. Through critical, community-based, multi-method scholarship, she investigates how settings are transformed into empowering ones and how groups resist injustice and build collective power. Her work has engaged marginalized individuals (e.g., ethnicity, income, age) who participated in social justice organizing, as well as children, youth, and emerging adults who are interested in improving their neighborhoods, communities, schools, and other settings.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

9:00-9:10	Welcoming Remarks	12:10-1:10	Poster Presentations II
9:10-9:25	Oral Presentation 1	1:10-2:10	Lightning Talks II
9:25-9:40	Oral Presentation 2	2:10-2:25	Oral Presentation 5
9:40-10:40	Lightning Talks I	2:25-2:40	Oral Presentation 6
10:40-11:40	Poster Presentations I	2:40-3:40	Poster Presentations III
11:40-11:55	Oral Presentation 3	3:45-4:45	Keynote Address
11:55-12:10	Oral Presentation 4	4:45-5:00	Keynote Speaker Q&A

