

1 **SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY**  
2 **Academic Senate**  
3 **Executive Committee**  
4 **October 12, 2020**  
5 **Final Reading**  
6

**AS 1786**

7 **SENSE OF THE SENATE RESOLUTION**  
8 **HONORING SJSU HISTORY: 150 YEARS IN SAN JOSÉ TO BE**  
9 **CELEBRATED OCTOBER 20, 2020 as “HERITAGE DAY”**  
10

11 **Whereas:** SJSU has a rich history tied to California’s history, as well as that of the  
12 City of San José and the educational system of California. The history of  
13 San José State University began in San Francisco in 1857 with a school  
14 for preparing teachers—Minns’ Evening Normal School. This school  
15 became the California State Normal School, created by the California  
16 legislature in 1862. In subsequent years, a few cities attempted to get the  
17 School to relocate and San José was selected by the California legislature  
18 in 1870.

19  
20 **Whereas:** On October 20, 1870, the cornerstone of the first California State Normal  
21 School was laid in Washington Square in a ceremony celebrated by  
22 students, community members, and leaders of the City of San José and  
23 State of California. Over 3,000 people attended the festivities that began  
24 with a parade from City Hall up First Street to San Antonio Street and then  
25 east to Washington Square. A time capsule containing such items as a  
26 copy of the California school laws, a normal school diploma, a local paper,  
27 and a copy of the San José city charter, was placed beneath the  
28 cornerstone. State Superintendent of Public Instruction O.P. Fitzgerald  
29 delivered a speech stating:

30 “The laying of this cornerstone today becomes a very significant act,  
31 reminding us of the profound feeling of responsibility and the thorough  
32 conscientiousness which we should bring to bear in discharging our official  
33 duties in organizing and establishing this institution on a right foundation.  
34 Let, then, this noble structure rise upon its solid foundations. Let it rise in its  
35 beauty and grandeur, the mother institution of its class upon the Pacific  
36 Coast. Let it rise as a monument of the enterprise and far-reaching sagacity  
37 of an enlightened people. Let it rise here in this valley of surpassing beauty  
38 and fertility, in the very heart and center of California, where it will be  
39 accessible to all, and from which it shall radiate light and blessing all over

40 the State, from the sunny crests of the Sierras to the orange groves of the  
41 south. This is the first State Normal School of California; others will be  
42 established in due time and in proper places...”

43 “We represent not only for the present, but for the future. We are now  
44 planting a tree whose growth coming generations will foster, and whose fruit  
45 they will gather. Let us do our work well, that those who come after us may  
46 follow our good example, and carry forward the great work which we shall  
47 transmit to them.”

48 **Whereas:** On October 20, 2000, the campus celebrated University Heritage Day as  
49 another tree was planted—laying the cornerstone of the Dr. Martin Luther  
50 King, Jr. Library, the first ever city-university joint library, another historic  
51 event that continues to strengthen the connection between SJSU and the  
52 communities it serves.

53 **Whereas:** Celebration of SJSU’s history presents an opportunity to honor and  
54 strengthen our pride in our students, alumni, employees, friends and  
55 community by remembering our enduring legacy of educating millions of  
56 students through our longstanding contributions to innovative teaching,  
57 focus on social justice, and empowering students to thrive as lifelong  
58 learners serving the world in numerous ways.

59 **Whereas:** As the various recent challenges encountered by SJSU, the surrounding  
60 community, and the planet have poignantly illuminated many unsettled  
61 aspects of persistent and systemic discrimination, recognition of our  
62 history is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the fact that SJSU has  
63 always weathered challenges by embracing our rich diversity as one of the  
64 cornerstones of the university’s foundation for distinguished and  
65 transformative learning.

66 **Whereas:** Remembrance, reconciliation, and celebration of our past and how it  
67 shaped and continues to shape the campus and the community  
68 contributes to our many points of pride and advances opportunities for the  
69 future.

70 **Whereas:** Recognition and celebration of our history helps us reach our  
71 “Transformation 2030” goals looking towards the 22<sup>nd</sup> century to be sure  
72 we continue to contribute to solving the world’s problems and to  
73 continually reinvent ourselves to serve a changing world.

74 **Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate recognize October 20, 2020 as *Heritage*  
75 *Day* and encourage all members of the campus community to become  
76 involved in events planned for the day.

77 **Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate support efforts to continue to document,  
78 remember, recognize, and celebrate our diverse history-as a way of  
79 promoting common collective experiences to solidify San José State  
80 University’s multifaceted points of pride into the future.

81

82 **Approved:** September 21, 2020

83 **Present:** Curry, Day, Del Casino Jr., Delgadillo, Frazier,  
84 Marachi, Mathur, McKee, Papazian, Peter,  
85 Sasikumar, White, Wong(Lau)

86 **Absent:** Faas, Sullivan-Green

87 **Vote:** 13-0-0

88 **Financial Impact:** Minimal costs of virtual events for a campus and  
89 community celebration on October 20, 2020, with  
90 ongoing efforts to develop and implement ways to  
91 share SJSU history with all members of the SJSU  
92 community.

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