

**SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY
ONE WASHINGTON SQUARE
SAN JOSE, CA 95192**

**SS-F20-1 Sense of the Senate Resolution, Honoring SJSU History: 150 Years
in San José to be Celebrated October 20, 2020 as “HERITAGE DAY”**

Legislative history: On October 12, 2020, the Academic Senate approved the following resolution presented by Senator Curry and Professor Annette Nellen for the Executive Committee.

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

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

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

“The laying of this cornerstone today becomes a very significant act, reminding us of the profound feeling of responsibility and the thorough conscientiousness which we should bring to bear in discharging our official duties in organizing and establishing this institution on a right foundation. Let, then, this noble structure rise upon its solid foundations. Let it rise in its beauty and grandeur, the mother institution of its class upon the Pacific Coast. Let it rise as a monument of the enterprise and far-reaching sagacity of an enlightened people. Let it rise here in this valley of surpassing beauty and fertility, in the very heart and center of California, where it will be accessible to all, and from which it shall radiate light and blessing all over the State, from the sunny crests of the Sierras to the orange groves of the south. This is the first State Normal School of California; others will be established in due time and in proper places...”

“We represent not only for the present, but for the future. We are now planting a tree whose growth coming generations will foster, and whose fruit they will gather.

Let us do our work well, that those who come after us may follow our good example, and carry forward the great work which we shall transmit to them.”

- Whereas:** On October 20, 2000, the campus celebrated University Heritage Day as another tree was planted—laying the cornerstone of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, the first ever city-university joint library, another historic event that continues to strengthen the connection between SJSU and the communities it serves.
- Whereas:** Celebration of SJSU’s history presents an opportunity to honor and strengthen our pride in our students, alumni, employees, friends and community by remembering our enduring legacy of educating millions of students through our longstanding contributions to innovative teaching, focus on social justice, and empowering students to thrive as lifelong learners serving the world in numerous ways.
- Whereas:** As the various recent challenges encountered by SJSU, the surrounding community, and the planet have poignantly illuminated many unsettled aspects of persistent and systemic discrimination, recognition of our history is an opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the fact that SJSU has always weathered challenges by embracing our rich diversity as one of the cornerstones of the university’s foundation for distinguished and transformative learning.
- Whereas:** Remembrance, reconciliation, and celebration of our past and how it shaped and continues to shape the campus and the community contributes to our many points of pride and advances opportunities for the future.
- Whereas:** Recognition and celebration of our history helps us reach our “Transformation 2030” goals looking towards the 22nd century to be sure we continue to contribute to solving the world’s problems and to continually reinvent ourselves to serve a changing world.
- Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate recognize October 20, 2020 as *Heritage Day* and encourage all members of the campus community to become involved in events planned for the day.
- Resolved:** That the SJSU Academic Senate support efforts to continue to document, remember, recognize, and celebrate our diverse history-as a way of promoting common collective experiences to solidify San José State University’s multifaceted points of pride into the future.

Approved:	September 21, 2020
Present:	Curry, Day, Del Casino Jr., Delgadillo, Frazier, Marachi, Mathur, McKee, Papazian, Peter, Sasikumar, White, Wong(Lau)
Absent:	Faas, Sullivan-Green
Vote:	13-0-0
Financial Impact:	Minimal costs of virtual events for a campus and community celebration on October 20, 2020, with ongoing efforts to develop and implement ways to share SJSU history with all members of the SJSU community.