

SAN JOSÉ STATE UNIVERSITY



Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson, President

Dear Spartan community,

September 11 remains one of the most defining moments in our nation's history. Today, it is a day of remembrance and reflection, a day to honor the nearly 3,000 lives lost, the families forever changed, and the countless acts of courage, selflessness, and ultimate sacrifice that emerged in the face of tragedy.

For those of us who lived through that morning in 2001, the memories are vivid. We remember where we were, what we saw, what we felt. For many of our students and younger community members, the September 11 attacks are something they have only read about in history books. And yet, the world they have grown up in has been shaped by that day.

Among the many acts of heroism we remember are those tied to our Spartan community. Captain Jason Dahl ('80 Aeronautics Operations) piloted United Flight 93, whose passengers and crew fought back against the hijackers, preventing further devastation. Frank Belcastro, now retired from our own SJSU UPD, was a New York Police Department captain at the time and among the first responders at the World Trade Center. Karen Philbrick, executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute, volunteered with the Red Cross in New York to provide therapeutic support, while Meta Mereday ('84 Advertising) rushed to Ground Zero to help in any way she could. Their actions remind us that courage and service come from every corner of our country and every walk of life.

As time passes, grief has been joined by gratitude and tragedy by pride, for the heroism and unity that defined our nation not just that day, but in the weeks and months that followed. September 11 reminds us of a rare moment when our nation was fully united, when we set aside differences to comfort one another, to serve, and to rebuild.

Today, we come together as a campus community to honor the memory of those lost, to celebrate those who rose in the face of great adversity, and to commit ourselves to building a future where peace, belonging, and shared purpose guide our actions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cynthia Teniente-Matson".

Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson
President
(She/Her/Ella)



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