

Spring 2020 State of the University

President Mary A. Papazian

March 9, 2020, 2pm

Thank you, friends and partners, as well as all of those joining us via live stream. I am glad you could all be here today.

I am pleased to welcome Teresa Yoloti Gomez, field representative for Assembly Member Ash Kalra, for attending on his behalf.

Though I hesitate to begin on a rather serious note, I wanted to start by saying a few words about our response to the **coronavirus outbreak**.

Our primary objective with this crisis is to provide **timely, thorough, and credible information** to the campus community. Indeed, we are doing everything we can to provide the necessary information to our students, faculty, staff, and others.

If you go to our main website, **SJSU.EDU**, you will see that we now have a link **on the very front page** that will take you directly to a site where we are organizing the pertinent updates and information. Here, you will find a

We have said all along that this would be one strategic plan that would **not** sit on a shelf and collect dust. So I am delighted to say that our implementation of *Transformation 2030* is well-underway!

However, I am not going to spend a lot of time here going through the strategic plan again and our implementation efforts to date. I would encourage you to follow my blog, where I have slowly been making my way through each of the five goals of *Transformation 2030*. I will continue to reference the strategic plan in my blog posts and other communication vehicles for the foreseeable future.

Various references to *Transformation 2030* will be sprinkled in throughout my presentation today, however. That should give you a pretty good sense of how we have been moving forward.

Second series of **Fall Commencement** ceremonies. They were demonstrated how our graduates shine so brightly, even in the gloomy winter months.

Honoring our summer and fall graduates each year in the same way as we honored our spring graduates. I look forward to continuing that tradition in the fall.

But the **comprehensive housing solution** that we announced in our comprehensive plan are available on our website, including a link to the plan so I would encourage you to review it. If you have any questions, please contact me at [redacted].

This came the same day, I should add, that we cut the ribbon on our new **Voting Center** over at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. It was a special and important day for democracy here on our campus, and I am so pleased we were up and running with the

As Elena has pointed out, Putnam's book demonstrated how Americans often bowl alone nowadays rather than joining leagues or clubs, thereby missing out on civic discussions and other forms of public engagement.

Not only did the Center just celebrate an anniversary, but it also is very much involved in the **California Volunteers AmeriCorps Service Fellowship Pilot program** announced just recently at the State Capital.

Our campus will receive more than **a half-million dollars** in state and federal funding for this pilot year of the Fellowship, providing 44 fellows with a living allowance and an education award. Our specific Fellowship program, the **AmeriCorps Civic Engagement Fellows**, will build on our current Cyber Spartans program and will address educational equity needs within the City of San Jose.

It will do this by teaching computer programming to underserved third to sixth grade youth attending after school programs. Fellows also will engage in Mayor Liccardo's **ServeSJ initiative**.

I cannot express just how exciting and inspiring all of this is, and what it says about the service-oriented outlook that our students and faculty possess. I think this deserves a big round of applause!

So, what are some of the other ways in which we have been working with the leaders of this city these past few months and having a say on city and regional issues? Here are some other examples:

We took part in the **"Future of Downtown San Jose"** event and engaged with Google on its development plans here, reminding them of the role our students and faculty can – and should – play with that project. We are now having conversations with Google executives to identify strategic partnership opportunities beyond ongoing recruitment and sponsorship programs.

We were Gold Sponsors of the **2020 Joint Venture Silicon Valley "State of the Valley"** conference, thus having a strong presence there with other influencers and decision-makers.

We continue to have a strong and influential voice with the **Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)** on the BART-to-San Jose project.

In fact, I have had one-on-one conversations with Mayor Liccardo about this very topic, and rest assured, he is now **well aware** of our views on the significance of this project to San Jose State and its students, faculty, and staff!

Finally, if you follow my blog, you may recently have noticed that I referenced a new activity we are planning called “**Spartan Town and Gown Week.**” This maps **directly** to *Transformation 2030*’s Goal #4, “Connect and Contribute,” and is essentially an expansion of our annual “Weeks of Welcome” when students are returning to campus.

This new initiative will debut in August, and the idea around the program is to encourage the City of San Jose to welcome back our 35,000+ students and 7,000+ faculty and staff upon their return to campus after the summer break.

Our intent is to partner more closely with local businesses to help demonstrate to our students that San Jose is **aware of** and **supportive of** their return to campus. Our traditional “Weeks of Welcome,” as wonderful and successful as it has been, has typically been limited to campus activities and programs.

So we are looking forward to expanding that effort in a way that involves our City partners and colleagues, particularly the business community.

Research, graduate, and doctoral studies

Now, I would like to shift my attention to our progress in research, graduate, and doctoral studies.

Firstly, our **Division of Research and Innovation** has been making great strides as it establishes new functions while expanding others.

The Research Development team will reside in the Office of Research under the leadership of Julia Gaudinski, who is

The important thing to note is that the agreement is now based on terms that make the operation of the center **operationally and financially viable**.

We are welcoming our first class of **audiology doctoral students** this fall and are developing an **occupational therapy** doctorate. We also are exploring a few Ph.D. programs to be offered in collaboration with University of California campuses.

Finally, we have **five new master's degree programs** being developed this year, including three in the area of **data science and analytics**, a burgeoning field for which Silicon Valley employers rely on San Jose State to educate the next generation of doers and leaders.

So not only is San Jose State renowned as Silicon Valley's **Public University**, we can now say it is truly the Silicon Valley's **Public Graduate School**, and a place where graduate students flourish!

Technology

You may have noticed that I have written a fair amount in recent months about technology in my blog and in some speeches away from campus.

There is a reason for that: We continue to transform the role of technology at our university, whether it be for academic uses, campus safety, workforce preparation, or other purposes. It is critically important that we get the role of technology right at this university.

We want to **lead** on this issue and create an environment on campus where technology is **effortless, transparent, and predictable**. We want to do this in a way that leverages our Silicon Valley location and gives us and our students a competitive advantage.

So, to this end, we signed an agreement in October with **IBM** that will deliver **\$5 million worth of advanced technology** to our students, faculty, staff, and researchers, including IBM's first-ever Cyber Security Training Center. Our IT team is now working with the Offh4.004 Tc 0.004 Twtotea

I will offer a quick “shout out” to **Provost Del Casino** for moving this project forward for us – and for finding a way to fund it! Thanks, Vin!

Campus safety

It is always important at these types of occasions to talk a bit about campus safety. It is our goal to be the safest and most secure campus in the United States, but we know we will need to be diligent and even creative if we are to come up with the kinds of strategies that will allow us that distinction, particularly given our location in the heart of the 10th largest city in America.

We continue to work strategically to improve campus safety in several ways:

We are improving the safety of our card access system and door locks.

We are improving building security after hours by doing things like requiring the use of the Tower Card to unlock during those hours.

We are enhancing our video surveillance system on campus.

We are enhancing our Emergency Broadcast capabilities

We are even looking at the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning to Alert UPD to potentially dangerous situations.

I cannot emphasize enough how important all of these safety enhancements are for this university. We want to keep everyone safe and secure.

Campaign

Developments, investments, and improvements such as some of those I have described above enhance our ability to fulfill our mission. But everything comes at a price, fiscally-speaking.

So we need even more investments in our extraordinary students, faculty, and staff members as we continue to implement *Transformation 2030*. These are the underpinning factors behind our next comprehensive fundraising campaign, the early stages of which currently are unfolding.

During the summer and early fall, campus and volunteer leadership explored the university’s readiness to mount a multi-million dollar comprehensive campaign, one that would be our second in the past several years. To do this, senior campus leaders, including my Cabinet, (D)2 (20 (C)-3 (ay)20

Furthermore, our fundraising consultants conducted an external feasibility and market positioning study on our behalf that tested a campaign statement of intent, the anticipated scope and scale of a campaign, our potential target goal of \$350 million, and the University's current priorities for the campaign.

Roughly four dozen individuals were interviewed, including past, current and prospective donors; past and current members of the Tower Foundation Board; community stakeholders and influencers; volunteer leaders, alumni and faculty.

The results of the feasibility/market positioning study will be presented to the President's Leadership Council, the Tower Board and the Alumni board later this month.

So we are marching forward with our comprehensive campaign, but we are doing so thoughtfully and intentionally. We need to get this right, and when we do, we should see results that will benefit our students and other members of our campus community for years to come.

Close – the Campus Climate Survey

To close my presentation, I wanted to say a few words about the Campus Climate Survey.

At the outset of today's State of the University speech today, I made the bold assertion that we

That concludes my State of the University address. Thank you all again very much for being here today, and for all that you do to help make San Jose State the **best public university in the country**. I hope you can stick around for a bit and visit with your friends and colleagues. Thank you again.

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