



Upcoming Webinars and Conferences

3rd Annual Blockchain Tax Conference
January 30, 2026

42nd Annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute
November 2 - 3, 2026

We announce the date for our spring webinar in early 2026.

For more information, visit
www.sjsu.edu/taxinstitute

Tell your colleagues about our upcoming Certificate in Tax Practice information sessions.

All sessions will be conducted via Zoom.

For more information, and to register, refer them to:
www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/events.php

Connect with us:



<http://bit.ly/30EKpEN>



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MST FACULTY NEWS

Annette Nellen presented two programs at the AICPA National Tax Conference in Washington, DC in November. She also spoke on a panel about the tax pipeline at the TEI National Conference in San Francisco in October. Annette was reappointed to a fourth term (2026) on the IRS Advisory Council (IRSAC). She served on the AICPA Tax Reform Task Force creating member resources on OBBBA tax changes. Her article, "Preparing for the Journey From Status Quo to Better Tax Systems," was published in Tax Notes State in July. On October 1, Annette testified at a hearing on digital asset taxation before the Senate Finance Committee, representing the AICPA; Annette chairs the AICPA Digital Asset Tax Task Force. For a second year (2024 and 2025), Annette is on Accounting Today's List of the 100 Most Influential People in Accounting.

Caroline Chen continues to serve as a Senator representing the College of Business in the SJSU Academic Senate. Caroline is sought after by broadcast media and recently passed the 100 mark in such appearances in recent years.



Graduate tax courses for spring and summer 2026

- BUS 223B, Taxation of Partnerships—late spring
- BUS 225H, Taxation of Property Taxes—spring; asynchronous online
- BUS 225K, Advanced Individual Tax—spring; asynchronous online
- BUS 223H, Tax Policy Capstone—summer

If you already have an MST degree, you can take any of these course via SJSU's Special Session Open University program. Contact Catherine Dougherty for details—

catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu



Congratulations to our 16 MST graduates from Summer and Fall 2025!

Pictured are several of our graduates celebrating their achievements at the Fall Commencement ceremony on December 18, 2025 at the Provident Credit Union Event Center on campus, alongside MST Director Annette Nellen.

MST STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to Ivan Alvarez-Guzman! Outstanding MST Graduate for Summer/Fall 2025

I am honored that the MST faculty has recognized me as the Outstanding MST



Graduate for Fall 2025. I chose to pursue the MST program after receiving strong encouragement from my professors and tax partners during my summer internship, who emphasized the importance of tax research and tax laws analysis in building a successful career in tax. The MST program proved to be a pivotal step in my professional development. The curriculum strengthened my foundation in tax law and sharpened my ability to analyze complex tax issues.

Beyond technical knowledge, the program fostered critical thinking, discipline, and professionalism, all essential skills in the rapidly evolving tax environment. I strongly encourage students interested in tax to invest time in developing strong tax research and code interpretation skills, as these form the backbone of effective tax practice.

Looking ahead, I am excited to begin my career at Ernst & Young, LLP, where I plan to develop my expertise in corporate taxation further. The MST program has played a defining role in preparing me for the next chapter in my life, and I am grateful for the faculty and academic community that supported my growth.

Congratulations Lily Thai!

Lily Thai received the Silicon Valley Tax Directors Group scholarship in June 2025.

41st TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute

Eleven MST students attended the 41st TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute in November. Their summaries of the presentations will appear in the Winter issue of [The Contemporary Tax Journal](#).

Please help us promote our 3-course
Certificate in Advanced Tax Practice.

The classes: Tax Research, Taxation of Business Entities, and Taxation of Property Transactions.

These courses will help set a strong foundation for a career in tax and greater advancement opportunities.

For more information visit
<https://www.sjsu.edu/lucasgsb/prospective-students/advanced-certificates/tax-practice.php>.

MST students and alums:

Have news to share with others? Please send details to
catherine.dougherty@sjsu.edu

ALUMNI NEWS

Stephen Dunphy



Stephen Dunphy is the Senior Vice President of Tax for Ross Stores, Inc. He is very active in the tax profession, currently serving as Secretary for Tax Executive Institute (TEI) at the national level. This position will move him into the role of President of TEI National in a few years. TEI is an organization committed to establishing a worldwide network of tax professionals to enhance their professional growth and advance their careers. Stephen is a dedicated MST alum and frequent planner and presenter for the annual TEI-SJSU High Tech Tax Institute. At the November 2025 High Tech Tax Institute, Stephen organized and spoke on a panel about tariffs.

Stephen began his tax and accounting career at CSU East Bay, where he completed his undergraduate studies in business with a focus on accounting. His educational foundation prepared him to take the CPA exam and secure a role in tax and business advising at Arthur Andersen LLP. Reflecting on his journey, Stephen notes: "I did not plan to specialize in tax, but started preparing corporate income tax returns with Andersen on day one." After gaining experience in tax at Andersen, he transitioned to Cisco Systems, where he focused on handling income tax returns and maximizing their share-based compensation tax deductions resulting from the tech bubble.

While exploring opportunities in the tax field, Stephen realized he would need a specialized degree. "You need to locate, analyze and execute tax positions in practice every day. SJSU was well-respected and I enrolled in the MST program with the intent of getting my degree while I worked full-time." During his time in the program, he took a cutting-edge tax accounting and reporting course, a decision that profoundly influenced his professional journey.

"I ultimately took three tax accounting classes in the MST program which ignited my career. I was viewed as a subject matter expert and became chair of TEI's Financial Reporting Committee (FRC)," he says. "Under my oversight, I was able to consult with the FASB (Financial Accounting Standards Board) on upcoming tax law changes, including the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which afforded me two trips to Norwalk, Connecticut, to help shape US GAAP specifically impacting tech companies in Silicon Valley." Stephen had a significant impact on shaping tax accounting standards that directly affected companies in Silicon Valley and established connections with numerous tax professionals with whom he remains in touch to this day.

Stephen's advice to current MST students or individuals considering earning an MST or Tax Practice Certificate: "The combination of a BS in business with a concentration in accounting, a CPA license, and the MST degree makes you invaluable to any tax department. The combination of accounting and tax makes you a well rounded business advisor. The MST from SJSU is well-respected in industry and Silicon Valley."

"As an employer, I look for the CPA and MST combination on candidate resumes. In seeking professional opportunities, such as a volunteer for TEI, I trumpet my CPA and MST combination to differentiate myself from other candidates."

Sources: Stephen Dunphy, and SJSU News Center blog post of April 25, 2024 by Adriana Avila.