

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

School of Social Work - January Edition



JANUARY FIELD FAIR

The SJSU School of Social Work's January Field Fair was a resounding success, bringing together students and community partners in an engaging and collaborative environment. The event provided both the Graduate and Undergraduate students with valuable opportunities to network, explore career paths, and gain insight into the diverse fields within social work.



Event Highlights

- Strong student participation across BSW and MSW programs
- 60+ Representation from community and nonprofit organizations
- Students got the opportunity to connect directly with agency representatives, learn about practicum roles, and ask questions about placement opportunities.

SJSU SOCIAL WORK FIELD TIMELINE SPRING 2026

- January 5, 2026- Internship Search Orientation
- January 6, 2026 - Active Agency list will be sent to students by the end of the day
- January 9, 2026- Employment-Based Placement Petitions will become available
- January 12, 2026-In-Person Field Fair**
- January 15, 2026-O/H Field Fair**
- **Based off of your cohort (i.e. On Campus OR Online/Hybrid)
- January 16, 2026-Students can contact agencies to express interest
- January 23, 2026-The soonest one can accept an internship offer
- February 9, 2026, Employment based placement Petition applications are due and will not be accepted after this date
- March 9, 2026- If you have not participated in interviews or offered a placement, please contact the Field Education Office for support. (socialworkfieldeducation@sjsu.edu).
- March 27, 2026-You will get a response regarding your employment-based petition by this date
- April 6, 2026- Students must have a secured placement and the Internship Confirmation Form submitted in InPlace



Faculty Spotlight - Nicole Dubus



Interprofessional Education at SJSU

Interprofessional Education (IPE) at San José State University brings together students, faculty, and disciplines from across the College of Health and Human Sciences (CHHS) and the broader campus to prepare future professionals for collaborative, patient-centered care.

Interprofessional practice refers to healthcare and mental health providers from different professions working together to support the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. Since the Affordable Care Act shifted healthcare toward patient-centered care, collaboration across disciplines has become essential. Rather than working in isolation, providers communicate, coordinate, and integrate their expertise to deliver care that reflects the needs, values, and goals of those they serve.

IPE at SJSU emphasizes understanding professional roles, effective communication, and teamwork—skills that are critical to improving health outcomes and advancing health equity.

Interprofessional Education at SJSU

Palliative care is an important example of interprofessional practice in action. While often associated with end-of-life care, palliative care today supports individuals living with chronic or serious illnesses, as well as their caregivers, by addressing physical, emotional, social, and spiritual needs throughout the course of illness.

SJSU is honored to receive a two-year grant from the Shiley Haynes Institute for Palliative Care at California State University, San Marcos. This grant supports faculty, students, and the SJSU community by expanding palliative care education, integrating content into CHHS courses, engaging students interested in palliative care careers, and increasing awareness of palliative care services.

Palliative care relies on interprofessional teams—including physical and occupational therapists, nurses, social workers, and physicians—working collaboratively to enhance quality of life. Through IPE, SJSU prepares students to become compassionate, collaborative professionals equipped to meet the complex healthcare needs of diverse communities.

Professor Nicole Dubus is the Faculty Director for the Shiley Haynes Institute for Palliative Care at San Jose State.

Events:

Learn more about Interprofessional options within our CHHS majors and about palliative care at the Spring Health Symposium on March 27, 2005.

Keep an eye out for our students' media posts on instagram, facebook, and more.



Student Spotlight



Journey to Social Work

This month, we're excited to spotlight a first-year student in the 2-year Online/Hybrid MSW program whose path to social work has been shaped by years of meaningful work with youth and families. Her professional background includes consulting, coaching, startups, and education, along with experience working in mental health settings. While social work was not an obvious career switch at first, after working closely with teens and their parents for over a decade, she felt increasingly drawn to providing direct clinical services and therapeutic support. Pursuing social work became the most aligned next step to deepen her clinical training and better serve individuals and families in a meaningful way.

Fieldwork and Student Involvement

One of the most impactful parts of her experience so far has been her field internship at Santa Teresa High School (ESUHSD). She shares how grateful she is for the trust, support, and mentorship of her supervisor and team, and how much she has learned through hands-on work in the school setting.

Beyond field, she has been actively involved in student leadership through SWGSA, where she serves as the Education & Empowerment Chair. She has especially enjoyed creating the Clinically Curious Forum, which brings clinical topics into student conversations, and contributing to the Discord revamp. While the changes initially came with some resistance, she has been encouraged to see the platform grow into a central space for sharing resources, information, and student support.

Looking Ahead and Words for Peers

Looking ahead, she is most interested in pursuing clinical mental health, with a focus on working with adolescents and families. She hopes to eventually provide therapy in higher-acuity or interdisciplinary settings, such as schools.

Her message to fellow and incoming students is simple: get involved. While balancing school and life can be challenging, she believes that some of the most meaningful and rewarding experiences come from involvement outside the classroom. Drawing from her background in HR and career coaching, she also notes that these experiences often help students stand out, expand their networks, and open doors to unexpected opportunities. She warmly invites students to connect with her on Discord and is always happy to chat or brainstorm.



Grace Chiang

2026 NASW-CA Legislative Lobby Days

Lobby Days is a two-day event that educates more than 1,200 students and professionals about important legislation affecting clients and the social work profession. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the legislative process and gain hands-on lobbying experience by engaging with state legislators and/or their staff about key policy issues. The event also highlights applications of Macro Social Work and related career paths.



**April 12–13,
2026**

Interest Form

- More information about Lobby Days 2026 will be shared through upcoming virtual information sessions hosted by NASW representatives (dates and times TBD).
- Students are encouraged to complete the Interest Form to receive updates.

Faculty Research Spotlight

Professor Babe Kawaii-Bogue, a faculty member in the School of Social Work, was recently featured in Rutgers Today for her first-author research article, *Addressing Racial and Ethnic Disparities of Childhood Trauma, Grief, and Loss: Considerations for Mental Health and Educational Policy*, published in September.

The study examines how childhood trauma, grief, and loss are understood and addressed in school settings and calls for trauma-informed, context-driven, and systems-level approaches to better support students mental health.




"Congratulations on this important research and recognition."

- [Read the Rutgers Today press release](#)
- [View the published article](#)

School of Social Work Contact Information

 408-924-5800

 One Washington Square (WSQ Rm. 215)
San Jose, CA 95192-0124

 socialwork@sjsu.edu

 www.sjsu.edu/socialwork/

