

Gloria Abdullah-Lewis Abu Bakr H Al Jafri Chantal Alatorre Reece Allen

Adam Barth Collette Evans Brown

Aron Disman

Leonardo Fewell Figueroa

Lilian De Loza Gutierrez

Leila Hajalilou

Issa Ibrehimi

Julia Mertz **Aung Min Naing** Trisha O'Connor Meredth Park Christina Prosperi Kerwin Rice

Misha Kaur

David McFeelv

Chandrim Sharma Robert "BJ' Takushi

Jay Washburn

Calvin Wong

Esbeidy Gonzalez Wongmoung

2022 MSTM Alumni **Leadership Team**

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June 2022 Newsletter

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Want to join the team?

E-mail us at mticonnect@gmail.com





Alumni, we would love to hear from you! Tell us what you have been up to since you graduated. Tell us about job promotions and career advancements so we can feature you in the Classmate Updates section. Send your update to: mticonnect@gmail.com.

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Moving Forward 2022

MTI MSTM Alumni Association Newsletter



Contacting the MSTM Alumni Association

Visit our web site: www.MTIconnect.org E-mail to: MTIconnect@gmail.com

Highlights

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The 30th Annual MTI Banquet/Graduation Celebration Will be held at 5.30—7:15 P.M. PDT Saturday, June 25, 2022.

See details at right.

www.mticonnect.org/ convocation

Message from Dr. Karen Philbrick about the 2022 Convocation

We are living in unprecedented times and amid one of the most challenging moments in our country and that the global community has ever faced. We hold in our hearts and prayers members of our Mineta Transportation *Institute's staff and family who we have recently lost, Professor Denise Patrick,* PhD, and our beloved founder Norman Y. Mineta, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, Retired.

Our graduates have persevered, in spite of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Now more than ever it is critical to come together as a community to recognize each and every one of our graduating students. Finally this year we can come together in person, and join in celebration!

When: Saturday, June 25th, 5:30 to 9:15 pm PDT

Where: San Jose State University, Student Union Ballroom, San Jose, California 95192

Link to Join:

https://transweb.sjsu.edu/events/30th-Annual-Awards-Banquet-and-**Convocation-Celebration**

Rod Diridon' will give a tribute to Mineta Transportation Institute's Founder Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation, Retired Norman Mineta. MSTM Education Director. Dr. Asha Weinstein Agrawal will offer congratulatory remarks to the degree candidates. Beverly A. Scott, Ph.D. a U.S. Transportation leader will be addressing the graduating class as well. Your alumni association president Olivia Rocha will be welcoming all of the students into the alumni association. Out-going MTI Board of Trustees Chair Will Kempton will give closing remarks.

We invite all graduates and their families to join us for this 2022 celebration. Let's raise a glass to commemorate this important moment! To all of our students who have worked so hard to reach this milestone: this night is all about you, your dedication, and vour accomplishments!

I look forward to sharing this exciting experience.





Karen E. Philbrick, Ph.D. **Executive Director**







Founder, Mineta Transportation Institute

November 12, 1931 San Jose - May 3, 2022 Edgewater, MD

Norman Y. was the President and CEO of Mineta and Associates, LLC and former U.S. Secretary of Commerce and U.S. Secretary of Transportation. He was well known for his work in the areas of transportation—including aviation, surface transportation and infrastructure—and national security.

He was recognized for his accomplishments in economic development, science and technology policy, foreign and domestic trade, budgetary issues and civil rights. Mineta's career in public service has been both distinguished and unique. He was married to Danealia (Deni) Mineta and had two sons, David K. Mineta and Stuart S. Mineta and two stepsons, Robert and Mark Brantner.

For almost 30 years, Mineta represented San Jose, California, first on the City Council, then as mayor and then as a member of the U.S. Congress. Throughout that time, Mineta was an advocate of the burgeoning technology industry. He worked to encourage new industries, spur job growth, and supported the development of the infrastructure needed to accommodate the technology industry and its tremendous growth.

Mineta served as chairman of the U.S. House Committee on Public Works and Transportation from 1992 to 1994 and chaired the Subcommittees on Aviation and Surface Transportation. He was the primary author of the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991.

In 2000, President Bill Clinton appointed Mineta Secretary of Commerce. There, Mineta was known for his work on technology issues, achieving international cooperation and intergovernmental coordination on complex fisheries issues and for streamlining the patent and trademark process.

President George W. Bush appointed Mineta Secretary of Transportation, where he served until 2006. Following the horrific terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, Mineta grounded all aviation flights and then guided the creation of the Transportation Security Administration—an agency with more than 65,000 employees—marking the largest mobilization of a new federal agency since World War II. Mineta was also a vice president of Lockheed Martin, where he oversaw the first successful implementation of the EZ-Pass system in New York State.

Recognized for his leadership, Mineta has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the highest civilian honor in the United States—and the Wright Brothers Memorial Trophy, which is awarded for significant public service of enduring value to aviation in the United States. In February 2016, he was named a Chubb Fellow at Yale University. While in Congress, he was the co-founder of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and chair of the National Civil Aviation Review Commission in 1997.

We will remember in our hearts a National leader of the highest quality, integrity in governess and his dedication to transportation improvement. A leader in time of national crisis, a humanitarian, and a friend and supporter of transportation education.





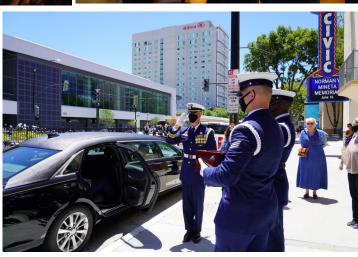












Speakers: City Hall: Reverend G Sakamoto, Honorable Sam Liccardo, Mayor of San Jose, Honorable Ron Diridon, Blanca Alvarado,

CIVIC CENTER

42nd U.S. President Bill Clinton, 43rd U.S. President George W. Bush, Honorable Sec. DOD Retired, Leon Panetta, Honorable Mike Honda, Honorable Willy Brown, Admiral Nunn USCG, Mineta Sons...





Norman Y. Mineta: 'Returns Home'

San Jose, CA June 15, 2022

November 12, 1931 – May 3, 2022

Official Portrait

USCG District 11 Honor Guard

Oh, Think of Me

When the dawn
O'er hill and dale
Throws her bright veil
Think of me!

When the laugh
With silver sound
Goes echoing round
Think of me!

When the rain With starry show'rs Fills all the flow'rs Think of me!

When the wind Sweeps along, Loud and strong, Think of me!

When the earth
Sleeping sound
Swings round and round
Think of me!

When the night
With solemn eyes
Looks from the skies
Think of me!





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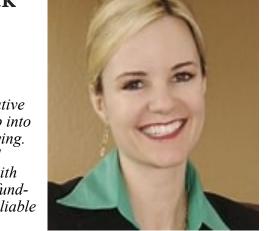


Poem: Elaine Hagenberg, - Photos: Roger Bazeley, MTI MSTM 2007, CHSRM 2012

MTI Executive Director Karen Philbrick "She Gets Things Moving"

By Donna Maurillo, MSTM 2011

If Dr. Karen Philbrick doesn't have vision, then nobody does. As executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute (MTI), she's had to step into the legendary Rod Diridon's immense shoes. That alone can be unnerving. But she's done it with sizable intelligence, clear planning, and a broad view. The upshot is that MTI has new branding to clearly align itself with San Jose State University, it has a global viewpoint, it acquired more funding sources, and it has become recognized as a "go-to" institute for reliable research on transportation issues.



"It was logical that we would identify strongly with the university," she said. "After all, MTI brings in about eight percent of SJSU's grant money. And our affiliation allows us to be part of the Council of University Transportation Centers. We need each other."

In the past, MTI relied only on two primary funding sources —Caltrans and the US Department of Transportation (DOT). Under Karen's leadership, the Institute has diversified, receiving additional funds from BART, VTA, Google, Federal Railroad Authority (FRA), and others. That means a much more stable financial future.

Long-term planning was key. The last competition for DOT funding was in 2016. MTI was awarded a grant to continue its work, but Karen and her team didn't rest on their laurels. Rather, they began preparing immediately for the next competition, which comes up later this year. A share of the \$90 million annual funding for 2022-26 is the ultimate prize. It all comes from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act of 2021.

She noted that when Rod Diridon was executive director, he made many political and industry connections. "It was all part of getting MTI known," she said. "Now we are talked about as a preeminent research facility because of our excellent research portfolio. Our work has become the basis of some transportation legislation, including some of Asha Agrawal's research as director of the MTI Transportation Finance Center. It's all about showing how our work can affect outcomes that benefit various populations."

Ask Dr. Philbrick about the passing of Secretary Norman Mineta, and she says it was an intensely personal loss. Not only was he a mentor to her, but he was the lifeblood for MTI. "When you read about his accomplishments, including the Civil Liberties Act and the Americans with Disabilities Act, you realize the mark he left on us. To understand how disabilities affect accessibility, he used a wheelchair to try and get around the Capitol. As a person, he was diplomatic, respectful, and able to correct wrongs. You just can't find anyone like that now."





Dr. Karen Philbrick continued

She is honored to be part of the planning team for his West Coast memorial service. "Every one of his chiefs of staff over the last 50 years wanted to participate," she said. "That's how much he meant to them. We expect people to pass away at a certain age, but we are never fully prepared when it happens."

What about the future of MTI? Dr. Philbrick says that her real interest is in educating transportation professionals. It's workforce development that has become her "future focus." She notes that MSTM students have included CEOs as well as customer service reps, so their deeper knowledge and skills are affecting entire organizations. She is especially enthusiastic about the Summer Transportation Institute, a three-week "summer camp" hosted at SJSU that attracts students from Title I schools. Classes include 35 students who go on ten field trips, participate in classroom work, and learn about multiple facets of the transportation industry.

They've gone to the redwoods park to learn about how greenhouse gas affects the environment," she said. "They've gone to the airport to observe baggage handling, and they've learned about autonomous vehicles. It's a program that teaches them everything from the C-suite to the front lines." As executive director, Rod Diridon used to worry about who would be good enough to carry MTI forward after his retirement. It's obvious that, with Karen Philbrick at the helm, his worries have evaporated.





MTI 2022 Alumni of The Year
Christina Watson

Director of Planning Monterey County Transportation Agency



Christina Watson has served as the Director of Planning at the Transportation Agency for Monterey County since 2001. Her responsibilities include managing the Monterey County Rail Extension project, acting as the staff legislative liaison, and supervising a transportation planning team. Christina is active with the WTS San Francisco Chapter as the Monterey Bay Program's chair, for which she was recognized in 2016 as "member of the year". She holds an MS in Transportation Management degree from the Mineta Transportation Institute and an MA in International Environmental Policy from the Monterey Institute of International Studies. She is a graduate of the Leadership Monterey Peninsula program and of the California Association of Councils of Governments' California Academy for Regional Leaders. Previously, Christina worked on global climate change policy issues through a Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship in Germany. She is also a volunteer guide at the Monterey Bay Aquarium.

The Monterey County Rail Extension project extends passenger rail service from Santa Clara County south to Salinas. This is a transformative project that will revitalize the downtown Salinas train station and create new multimodal transportation hubs for the disadvantaged communities of Pajaro and Castroville.

These multimodal stations will be served by new passenger rail service and bus transit that will provide peak period connections for the residents of Salinas and their north Monterey County, Monterey Peninsula and Santa Cruz County neighbors, to access Silicon Valley, San Jose, the greater San Francisco Bay Area, and Sacramento. In recognition of the importance of service to these populations, the 2018 California State Rail Plan includes the Monterey County Rail Extension Project in the near-term (2022) scenario.

"The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is responsible for investing in regional transportation projects for Monterey County residents, businesses and visitors. The mission of TAMC is to develop and maintain a multimodal transportation system that enhances mobility, safety, access, environment quality and economic activities in Monterey County. For more information visit www.tamcmonterey.org or call 831.775.0903."



Spotlight on our MSTM Graduates and Their Capstone Projects in 2020-2022 Continued



Christopher Salpeas Transportation Planner - LA Metro

Capstone: Infrastructure Effectiveness: Evaluation of the Rail Transit Connection to Los Angeles International Airport



Chandrim Sharma
Construction Engineer, BART

Capstone: Evaluation of the Effect of AB 2034 on California Rail Operators



Capstone: An Inquiry into Rail Accident Data on LA Metro's Rail



Jay Washburn

Manager of Paratransit and Minibus, San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Capstone: Americans with Disabilities Act Regulations and Their Effectiveness in Regulating Evolving Non-Traditional Paratransit Service Models





Calvin Wong

Maintenance Specialist Leader, LA Metro

Capstone: Best Practices of Los Angeles Metro and Los Angeles Trade Technical College in the Joint Apprenticeship Committee Program



Esbeidy Gonzalez Wongmoung

Bus Operations Supervisor, OCTA

Capstone: The Orange County Toll Roads: An Equity Concern for Low-Income Families

















ROD DIRIDON: TRANSPORTATION LEADER - EDUCATOR By MTI Staff

Rod Diridon, Sr. served as founding executive director of the Mineta Transportation Institute until 2014 when he moved to Emeritus status. Mr. Diridon has chaired more than 100 international, national, state and local programs, most related to transit and the environment. He provides legislative testimony on sustainable transportation issues and is regarded by many as the "father" of modern transit service in Silicon Valley.

Governors Davis and Schwarzenegger appointed him to the California High-Speed Rail Authority Board, of which he is chair emeritus. He helped found, and is chair emeritus of, the High-Speed and Intercity Rail Committee and the National High-Speed Rail Corridors Coalition of the American Public Transportation Association (APTA). He also was president of the national Council of University Transportation Centers.

In 1996, he founded and chaired the Transportation Research Board's study panel, "Combating Global Warming through Sustainable Transportation Policy." He advised the Federal Transit Administration and in 1995 chaired the Transit Oversight and Project Selection Committee for the National Research Council's Transportation Research Board. He has provided keynotes in more than 50 U.S. cities and for a dozen international conferences, and he has published numerous related articles.



ROD DIRIDON: TRANSPORTATION LEADER - EDUCATOR

By MTI Staff: continued

For over two decades, he served the Bay Area in a variety of elected roles from City Council member to chair of the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Transit Board. He also chaired the San Francisco Bay Area's three regional governments: the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and the Association of Bay Area Governments, as well as nine successful rail system development project boards. Upon his retirement from public office, Santa Clara County renamed its main train station "San José Diridon Station."

Mr. Diridon received a BS in accounting and an MSBA in statistics from San José State University and served as a U.S. naval officer. In 1968, he founded the Decision Research Institute, which he sold in 1977. He has two children, Rod Jr. and Mary Margaret, and four grandchildren. He is married to Dr. Gloria Duffy, former U.S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense and now president and CEO of the Commonwealth Club of California.







Issa Ibrahimi

Capstone: The Effectiveness of California High-Speed Rail Authority's Public Engagement in



Chris Johnson

Manager of Train Operations, Caltrain

Capstone: Caltrain Customer Satisfaction



Capital Improvement and Environmental Program Manager City of Pinole

Capstone: Evaluating the effectiveness of the Richmond-San Francisco Ferry Route



David McFeely

Adjunct Professor, San Jose State University

Capstone: Understanding the Effectiveness of San Jose's Community Based Organization (CBO) Engagement Model in Engaging the Community on Transportation Planning Initiatives





Julia Mertz

Senior Civil Engineer, BART

Capstone: Non-Traditional Phase II MS4 (Municipal Separate Storm Water) Permittees: How can agencies advance community and environmental benefits related to their stormwater programs without busting their budgets?



Aung Min Naing

Transportation Engineer, Caltrans

Capstone: Evaluating the Complexity of Caltrans' Traffic Census Program Management and Traffic Data Usage Process



Trisha O'Connor

Assistant Administrative Analyst **BART**

Capstone: Love it or Hate it? A Deeper Look into Community's Opinion about the City of Oakland's Slow Street Program Implemented on Ney Avenue



Meredith Park

Capstone: Overcoming Barriers That Discourage the Use of Public Transit to Get Kids to and From School in Redwood City, CA





Christina Prosperi

Associate Transportation Planner, Caltrans

Capstone: Doing More With Less: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Mobile Laser Scanning in State Departments of Transportation



Kerwin Rice

Bus Operator, LA Metro

Capstone: The Federal Transit Administration Response to COVID-19 for Public Transit

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Spotlight on our MSTM Graduates and Their Capstone Projects 2020-2022



Gloria Abdullah-Lewis

Interim Procurement Manager for Services (retired), BART

Capstone: Evaluation of the Pedestrian Infrastructure in the City of Vallejo's Equity Priority Communities



Abu Bakr H Al Jafri

Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans

Capstone: Comparing The Construction Manager General Contractor and The Traditional Design Bid Build Project Delivery Methods



Planner, County Los Angeles Department of Beaches and Harbors

Capstone: Rethinking Success: Evaluating Caltrans' \$20 Million Adaptation Planning Grant Program



Reece Allen

Climate Change Coordinator, Caltrans

Capstone: The Impact of Sea Level Rise on Caltrans District 7 Roadways: Verifying Roadway Vulnerability Along the State Route 1 Corridor





Adam Barth

CEO, Stanislaus Regional Transit Authority

Capstone: The Impacts of Providing Free Fares on Public Transit in Stanislaus County



Collette Evans-Brown

BART

Capstone: "Train'ing" Kids



Capstone: Improving Rail Vehicle Reliability by Performing Component Overhauls at Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority



Leonardo Fewell Figueroa

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Capstone: Evaluating Current Transportation Regulation Efforts and Practices to Assist the Taxicab Industry





Lilian De Loza Gutierrez

Director, Community Relations,

Director, Community Relations, LA Metro

Capstone: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Metro's Community Engagement During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Leila Hajalilou

Transportation Engineer, Caltrans

Capstone: Caltrans Project
Delivery: Pre-COVID and During
the COVID-19 Pandemic







November 12, 1931 San Jose – May 3, 2022 Edgewater, MD

Norman Mineta's style of leadership was based upon a life of acting for the common good to improve his community and society without demonstrating political, race, or religious views in his decisions and leadership processes. His leadership values of analysis and team building came from family roots that started with World War II experiences as being interned as an adolescent at Heart Mountain, Wyoming Japanese internment camp. He was a Boy Scout and rose to Eagle Scout status during this period, and became a lifelong friend of U.S. Senator Simpson of the state of Wyoming, who planted the seed of public service as a career.

On the morning of September 11, 2001, while Mineta was Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation, the country was struck by a terrorist airborne attack. Mineta was catapulted into managing the decisive strategy to activate his staff and management team into risk assessment in taking immediate action to reduce the possibility of further commercial and private airline hijacks. Secretary Mineta took decisive action while constantly reassessing the changing situation as each terrorist hijacked airliner attempted or struck its target of opportunity. This moment brought forth all of Mineta's management, risk assessment, and decision making into action during the crisis and the many months that followed changing regulations in an increasing volatile geo-political environment where the public lost its comfort in flying. Over the next few years, there was the task ahead of rebuilding the safety integrity and the public's confidence in commercial aviation. Norman Mineta demonstrated the key strengths of leadership in times of sudden crisis and recovery.

Leadership must take the ultimate responsibility for its actions, vision, and business or command ethics by virtue of the authority bestowed by the principals of "doing the right thing", the belief of integrity and service for the benefit of the public. Only history will justify the right and wrong of leadership's strategic decisions, public works, or impact and benefit to society. Mineta's style of leadership embraced this philosophy; he is our life's bench mark in public service integrity, a mentor, an educational coach, a friend to many and a true multi-cultural humanitarian.

By Roger Bazeley, MSTM 2007, CHSRM 2012





Dr. Beverly A. Scott's career in the public transportation industry spans more than three decades in the United States, including four appointments as CEO/General Manager – Boston (MBTA), Atlanta (MARTA), Sacramento (SRTD), and Rhode Island (RIPTA). In 2018, she founded Introducing Youth to American Infrastructure, Inc. ("Iyai+"), a non-profit dedicated to inspiring, educating, and engaging today's youth to be tomorrow's "community builders" -- American infrastructure leaders, skilled workforce, innovators, and entrepreneurs, — with special emphasis on improving the active participation of our most vulnerable youth and historically underutilized groups in infrastructure careers — people of color and women.

Beverly A. Scott, PhD, is a trailblazing leader in public transportation management. Over a three-decade career she has established a record marked by a commitment to quality, integrity and courage. Within the transit industry she has been a strong, consistent voice for workforce development, diversity, and people-oriented service. Dr. Scott has served as CEO/General Manager at four transit agencies and has held senior management positions in several major Metropolitan areas throughout the country including: Atlanta, Boston, Houston, New York, and Washington DC.

Dr. Scott received the Sharon Banks Humanitarian Leadership Award in Transportation for her advocacy on behalf of public transit users and workers and for her tireless efforts to improve the lives of others. She was also named a "Transportation Innovator of Change" by President Barack Obama. She is a past Chair of the Rail-Volution Board of Directors and currently serves on the boards of the American Public Transportation Association, the Transportation Learning Center (a national labor-management consortium), and in an advisory capacity to the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute of Race and Justice at Harvard University Law School in the areas of transportation, infrastructure, and equity, among others.

Throughout her career, she has received numerous national and local awards and recognitions. Nationally, the American Public Transportation Authority's Hall of Fame in 2020; Hubert Humphrey Award for Distinguished Service, American Political Science Association (APSA), Sharon A. Banks, Humanitarian Service Award, Transportation Research Board, National Academies of Sciences; Woman of the Year, Women's Transportation Seminar International (WTS); Women Who Move the Nation, Conference of Minority Transportation Officials (COMTO); and recognized as a "Transportation Agent of Change" by President Barack Obama/ USDOT in 2012.



Dr. Scott currently serves on the national Board of the American Public Transportation Association, <u>APTA</u>; African Heritage Studies Association, <u>AHSA</u>, <u>Equiticity</u> Advisory Committee; <u>International Transportation</u> <u>Learning Center</u> (labor-management workforce development consortium) Founding Board Member and current Senior Advisor; Research Associate, <u>Mineta Transportation Institute</u>, San Jose State University; <u>Jobs To Move America</u>, JMA, Vice Chair; and was recently appointed to the <u>Zero Emissions Transportation Association</u> (ZETA), Education Fund Board.

In 2011, she was appointed by President Obama to the <u>National Infrastructure Advisory Council</u> (NIAC), a panel of experts including top business executives, leading academics and local government officials who report to the White House through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security with responsibility for making policy recommendations to protect and preserve the physical assets that are critical to the U.S. economy and national security. In 2012, she was appointed NIAC Vice-Chair and currently serves in that capacity.

She was recently appointed by the U.S. Global Change Research Program as an Author, Transportation Chapter, Fifth National Climate Assessment. In 2019, she was appointed by State Treasurer Fiona Ma to the <u>California High Speed Rail Peer Review Group</u>. She also serves on the <u>Pacific Gas & Electric</u> Sustainability Advisory Council.

Dr. Scott holds a doctorate in political science from Howard University; and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Fisk University (magna cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa).

About Our Alumni

MSTM and certificate alumni belong to three different alumni organizations, each of which offer graduates networking opportunities and a range of formal and informal supports.

<u>MTIConnect</u> is the alumni group for graduates of the transportation management masters and certificate programs. The association provides helpful resources for current and past students through its newsletter, web site, capstone coach program, and networking events.

Transportation Management graduates are also members of the <u>Lucas Graduate School of Business Alumni Network</u>, for the school's 50,000+ alumni.

And graduates are, of course, also part of the university-wide SJSU Alumni Network.

LinkedIn group: https://www.linkedin.com/groups/1859350/