Organizational History

In 1857 the San Francisco Board of Education established Minns' Evening Normal School for current and prospective teachers in the city. Named after its principal, George W. Minns, the institution was formally established as the first California State Normal School by the State Legislature in 1862. A decade later, the Legislature voted to move the Normal School to San José, and the school relocated to its new home on Washington Square prior to the fall term of 1872. After a fire destroyed the Normal School building in 1880, the Legislature authorized $200,000 to construct a new building on the same site. Completed in 1881, the building was commonly referred to as the Second State Normal School. After several names and curriculum changes, Minns' Normal School is now San José State University, offering more than 134 bachelor's and master's degrees with 110 concentrations, and is recognized as one of the top public universities granting such degrees in the West.

Robert L. Caret assumed the responsibilities as president of San José State University on February 6, 1995. Dr. Caret previously held the position of provost and executive vice president at Towson State University in Maryland. He received his bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Mathematics from Suffolk University in 1969, and a Ph.D. in Organic Chemistry from the University of New Hampshire in 1974. We wrote five textbooks on chemistry, and co-authored the book, *Myths and Realities in Higher Education Administration* (1990). While president of San José State (1995-2003), Caret played a major role in acquiring funds for the university, and brought a vision for SJSU as the metropolitan university of Silicon Valley. Working side by side with former San José Mayor Susan Hammer, Caret also initiated a partnership with the City of San José to create the jointly designed, constructed and managed Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library, which opened in 2003.

Related Material

Susan Hammer Papers, MSS-2007-04-01. SJSU Special Collections & Archives.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Office of the President is the highest administrative office for the campus, reporting to the California State University (CSU) Chancellor and Board of Trustees, respectively. As such, the Office of the President records document the overall policies, practices and procedures of the daily operation of the campus, as well as the interaction with other CSU campuses and with the CSU administration. The President's Office, Robert L. Caret Records 1962-2002 (bulk 1994-1999) document his inauguration in 1995 as well as the role he played in the reinstatement of the ROTC and AFROTC programs at the university in 1997. The records consist of newspaper clippings, contracts, correspondence, datebooks, photographs, and publications.

**Arrangement**


**Subjects and Indexing Terms**

- United States. Army. Reserve Officers' Training Corps
- United States. Air Force ROTC
- Education, Higher -- California -- San José
- San José State University. Office of the President
- Caret, Robert L.
- San José State University. President's Office -- History
- San José State University. President's Office -- Records and correspondence
- California State University, San José -- History
- San José State University -- History


- Physical Description: 2 boxes
- Series Scope and Content Summary:
  This series documents the inauguration of President Caret (1994-2003) as well as his involvement on the Board of Directors for organizations such as the Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (M.E.S.A.) program and the San José Repertory Theatre. The series also contains bulletins and correspondence, newspaper clippings, family and professional photographs, as well as photographs of previous SJSU presidents.
- Arrangement:
  This series is arranged by format.

**Series II: ROTC Subject Files** Series II: 1984-1999 (bulk 1994-1997)

- Physical Description: 1 Box
- Series Scope and Content Summary:
  This series documents the disassociation of San José State University from the ROTC and AFROTC programs in 1994, as well as the role President Caret played in the reinstatement of the programs at the university in 1997. The series contains correspondence, newspaper clippings, contracts, and other legal documents.
- Arrangement:
  This series is arranged chronologically by date within each folder.