

Retirement Plans

Maximize Your Gift and Save Taxes for Your Heirs



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Retirement assets such as an IRA, 401(k), 403(b) or other tax-deferred retirement plan are often the best type of charitable gift because taxes on your estate and to your heirs can easily consume over half of your account balance at death. By donating these assets to San José State, you can leave a more sizable legacy than would be possible in most other instances.

Consider leaving less heavily taxed assets (possibly stock or real property where they would receive a step-up in basis) to your loved ones and leaving your retirement plan assets to SJSU to support students and programs.

How it Works

Bypass your estate by naming The Tower Foundation of San José State University (Tax ID #83-0403915) the beneficiary of all or a portion of your retirement plan. Just complete a beneficiary form provided by your plan custodian.

Ways You Can Give

Will or Living Trust

Gift your retirement plan through your will or living trust to entitle your estate to a tax deduction with no income tax due on the assets that go to charity.

Transfer to SJSU

Transfer the plan to SJSU during your lifetime to see the gratifying result of your generosity. While you must declare the proceeds as ordinary income, you can claim that amount as a charitable tax deduction to the full extent of the law.

Charitable IRA Rollover

Use the Charitable IRA Rollover to give a portion of your IRA to charity today without losing anything to taxes, satisfy your minimum required distribution and be rewarded with seeing your gift put to work for the purpose you intend.

You must be 70^{1/2} years or older and can transfer up to \$100,000 (\$200,000 for married couples) directly to SJSU.

Testamentary Charitable Remainder Trust

Fund a testamentary charitable remainder trust to both support your family and SJSU. The trust will receive the proceeds of these otherwise heavily taxed retirement plan assets upon your death. The trust can pay income to one or more named beneficiaries for life or for a set term of up to 20 years, after which the remaining assets in the trust would go to support SJSU.

For more information, contact Randy Balogh, SJSU director of planned giving, at 408-924-1123 or randy.balogh@sjsu.edu.



Richard Sessions is a career businessman, entrepreneur and lecturer in San José State's School of Information Systems and Technology. He has a learning disability, dyslexia. To support Spartans living with similar obstacles, he designated SJSU as the beneficiary of his retirement plan.

His gift will establish a scholarship for business students with disabilities through the Accessible Education Center.

"Somebody with a disability has to work doubly hard on their education. Often, they can't work and pursue a college education at the same time," he says. "That's when I realized I have the ability to give these students an opportunity for a better future."