

Meet Our Speakers



Dr. Nidhi Mahendra
Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Associate Professor at SJSU

Communicative Disorders and Sciences Director

SPARC Associate Director

Nidhi Mahendra is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communicative Disorders and Sciences at San José State University (SJSU) in Northern California.

A multilingual speech-language pathologist, she directs the Spartan Aphasia Research Clinic (SPARC) and serves as Associate Director of the Center for Healthy Aging in Multicultural Populations. Her areas of expertise are dementia, aphasia, multicultural issues in speech-language pathology, and palliative care. Her research is aimed at developing and measuring the outcomes of varied cognitive-communicative, technology-assisted, and life participation interventions for persons with dementia and aphasia. Her recent research has been funded by the El Camino Hospital (in Silicon Valley), Gary and Mary West Foundation, the Alzheimer's Association, American Speech Language Hearing Association, and the California Wellness Foundation. She has authored or coauthored over 50 publications and has made over 120 peer-reviewed presentations, nationally and internationally. She was the 2006 recipient of the Editors award from the American Journal of Speech Language Pathology, and recognized by the American Speech Language Hearing Association in 2012 for distinguished contributions to multicultural affairs.



Dr. Betty Yu
Ph.D., CCC-SLP

Associate Professor at SFSU

Betty Yu, Ph.D., CCC-SLP is an Associate Professor in the Department of Speech, Language, and Hearing Sciences at San Francisco State University. Before joining the faculty at San Francisco State, she practiced as a speech-language therapist primarily serving young children and their families in minority communities. Her research interest is in how children's language development interfaces with the development of sociocultural competence. Her current research focuses on the communication experiences of children on the autism spectrum and their families within bilingual contexts (more information on the Autism & Heritage Language Research website). She is a member of the Conversation Analysis Research in Autism (CARA) research group. She teaches courses related to language development, atypical language development, cultural and linguistic diversity, intervention in young children, and counseling in speech-language-hearing. The emphasis of her clinical instruction is on the provision of family-centered services to support communication development in children on the autism spectrum. She is the co-director of Project ALLIES, a project funded by the U.S. Department of Education to prepare speech-language therapists to work effectively with diverse children on the autism spectrum. She is currently the Chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Speech-Language-Hearing Caucus.



Dr. Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin
Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Professor at CSUS

Celeste Roseberry-McKibbin received her Ph.D. from Northwestern University. She is a Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at California State University, Sacramento. Dr. Roseberry is also currently a part-time itinerant speech pathologist in San Juan Unified School District where she provides direct services to students from preschool through high school. She has worked in educational and medical settings with a wide variety of clients ranging from preschoolers through geriatric patients.

Dr. Roseberry's primary research interests are in the areas of assessment and treatment of culturally and linguistically diverse students with communication disorders as well as service delivery to students from low-income backgrounds. She has over 70 publications, including 16 books, and has made over 370 presentations at the local, state, national, and international levels. Dr. Roseberry is a Fellow of ASHA, and winner of ASHA's Certificate of Recognition for Special Contributions in Multicultural Affairs. She received the national presidential Daily Point of Light Award for her volunteer work in building literacy skills of children in poverty. She lived in the Philippines as the daughter of Baptist missionaries from ages 6 to 17.



Sean Green
M.S., CCC-SLP

Sean received a Master of Science degree in Speech and Language Pathology from CSU, Sacramento. He currently serves as Director of School-Based Services with *The Speech Pathology Group*, serves on the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association School Issues Advisory Board and has served on the Board of Directors for the California Speech-Language-Hearing Association. Sean provides support, consultation and trainings to school based SLPs throughout California with emphasis on eligibility, speech and language intervention models and pragmatics.



Dr. Priscilla Lopez

Au.D.

Senior Audiologist at UCSF Medical Center

Priscilla Lopez is an audiologist who offers a wide range of diagnostic services and rehabilitative care for adults and children. Her specialties include single-sided deafness, comprehensive vestibular – or balance – assessments and advanced techniques for fitting hearing aids. She also has expertise in the use of hearing assistive technology systems, and Lyric, a type of extended-wear hearing aid. Her goal is a compassionate approach to providing comprehensive, high-quality care to people with hearing difficulties. Lopez is passionate about promoting and providing hearing health care for all. She has volunteered her time in China, Mexico and Nicaragua to teach other hearing care professionals, assess hearing loss as needed, and fit children and adults with hearing aids. Lopez earned her doctor of audiology degree from Gallaudet University. She is a member of the California Academy of Audiology and fellow of the American Academy of Audiology. A native Spanish speaker, Lopez enjoys dancing and traveling in her free time.



Maret Wilson

M.A., CCC-SLP

Speech-Language Pathologist

Clinical Supervisor

Maret is a graduate of St. Olaf College and received a Master of Arts degree in Speech and Language Pathology from the University of Minnesota. During graduate school, Maret completed an emphasis in Bilingual/Multicultural issues in Speech-Language Pathology. She is Spanish-English bilingual and specializes in assessment and treatment of bilingual children, and those coming from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Maret is an advocate for use of alternative assessment means in order to differentiate language disorders from language differences. Currently, Maret conducts bilingual assessments in the public schools and provides clinical supervision and support to school-based SLPs.



Dr. Tina Jordan

Director, Peer & Academic Resource Center
Assistant Vice President, Strategic Success
Initiatives

For the last three years Dr. Tina Jordan has served as the Assistant Vice President of Strategic Success Initiatives at Sacramento State University. Her primary mission is to create programs that foster academic success to increase student retention and graduation rates. In collaboration with dedicated colleagues and student leaders, she has designed and implemented programs that foster student success. As the Director of the Peer and Academic Resource Center (PARC), a centralized academic hub that is based on a faculty-guided and student-led model, Dr. Jordan ensures that students are trained to serve their peers in Supplemental Instruction (SI), Workshops and Individual Tutorials, and Peer Led Advising programs. In addition to her role in PARC, Dr. Jordan is the Co-founder of Martin Luther King Jr. Center here at Sacramento State. The Center was created in 2015 to provide students a place to call home on campus and give them support they need through their academic journey. Among many other programs, Dr. Jordan oversees the Guardian Scholars Program that supports former foster youth in their higher education journey.



Dr. Heather Thompson

Ph.D., CCC-SLP
Associate Professor at CSUS

Heather L. Thompson, Ph.D is an assistant professor and coordinator for the speech-language pathology assistant program in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS). She is faculty advisor to the CSUS chapter of the National Student Speech-Language Hearing Association (NSSLHA). She trained at Western University in London, Canada and completed her PhD at the University of Utah. She has taught numerous classes in speech-language pathology at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her line of research is focused in the areas of developmental speech and language disorders. She has a specific interest in examining speech and language outcomes in children with cleft palate and developmental syndromes of Ras/MAPK pathway dysregulation.

She has published in the area of neurofibromatosis and has coauthored publications in the areas of specific language impairment/ADHD and pediatric feeding. She has received many University grants as well as funding from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR). She is on the advisory boards for District 2 of the California Speech Hearing Association and the Costello Syndrome Family Network and is part of the Response Evaluation in Neurofibromatosis and Schwannomatosis (REiNS) International collaboration.