INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE AND APPAREL ASSOCIATION

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NEWSLETTER

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ITAA
INTERNATIONAL TEXTILE
& APPAREL ASSOCIATION

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from sunny North Carolina! I’ve just returned from the BioCircular Textile Practicum held by the Fibershed Learning Center in beautiful Point Reyes Station, California and organized by several of our ITAA members. It was an enriching experience filled with meaningful connections—many with fellow ITAA members—and deep learning around soil health, regenerative farming, and sustainable textile practices. The setting, the conversations, and the shared purpose were truly rejuvenating. Much like our ITAA conferences, I came away inspired and full of fresh ideas for my courses and creative work. The practicum also reminded me of the incredible complexity of the apparel industry—so many different contributors are involved in bringing a single garment to life!

Our ITAA community reflects that same diversity in contributors, with members representing a wide range of disciplines, all under the textiles and apparel umbrella. And while our conference offers multiple tracks to support varied forms of teaching and scholarship, there are still areas we could explore more deeply. What topics or themes do you feel are missing? What conversations would you like to spark at the next ITAA conference? Salon Sessions are a wonderful opportunity to bring others together around a shared interest. If you have an idea, consider writing a proposal for a Salon Session - the deadline is February 1, and it will be here before we know it.

Finally, I'm excited to share the launch of two new financial support initiatives for conference attendance! First, a big thank you to our Legacy Group for sponsoring the Legacy Group Conference Support Initiative that will support undergraduate, graduate, and professional members. The second initiative is the ITAA Early-Stage Support Initiative, approved by the Council. This new program is designed to assist up to six graduate student members and six professional members who may need financial support to attend our annual conference. We recognize that early-stage scholars and professionals are vital to the future of our field, and we hope these initiatives help make participation more accessible. Details about the application processes can be found in this newsletter.

Best,

Melanie Carrico, mrcarric@uncg.edu

A Fresh Twist on Tradition: Introducing the New Friday Night Awards Dinner at the Annual Conference!

As we look ahead to the 2025 ITAA Annual Conference this November in St. Louis, we are thrilled to announce an exciting update to one of our most cherished traditions — the Awards Celebration. This year, we're reimagining the format with the launch of a **Friday Night Awards Dinner**, bringing the ITAA community together in a vibrant, elegant, and elevated setting to honor excellence across our field.

Why the Change?
Over the years, the ITAA Awards Ceremony has served as a

powerful moment of recognition for outstanding contributions in research, teaching, service, and creativity. By moving the celebration to Friday evening and transforming it into a dinner format, we hope to foster deeper community connections, create space for meaningful networking, and properly spotlight the remarkable achievements of our members in a more festive and formal environment.

What to Expect:

- **A Seated Dinner** with thoughtfully curated cuisine that reflects the spirit of our host city
- **Award Presentations** woven throughout the evening, highlighting our Distinguished Scholars, Rising Stars, Fellows, and other honorees
- **A Celebration Atmosphere** that encourages community, reflection, and inspiration
- **Enhanced Networking Opportunities** in a relaxed and collegial setting

Save the Date: Friday, November 21, 2025
Don’t miss this special evening. We invite all attendees to join us in your conference best as we celebrate the people who make ITAA the dynamic and innovative community it is.

Let’s come together for a night of inspiration, celebration, and connection — a new tradition we hope will grow with us for years to come.

Cotton Incorporated

ANNOUNCING INDUSTRY EXCELLENCE AWARD

RECIPIENT FOR 2025

We are thrilled to introduce Cotton Incorporated as the 2025 ITAA Industry Excellence Award winner, a prestigious honor celebrating companies, both for-profit and nonprofit, for their outstanding contributions to the textile and apparel field. This award recognizes organizations that have significantly contributed to strengthening partnerships between academia and the industry, with a focus on teaching, research, and professional development initiatives.

Cotton Incorporated is a not-for-profit organization that researches, educates, and promotes every stage of the cotton supply chain. Its http://www.cottonworks.com website and Cotton University platform enhance understanding of trend forecasting, fabric construction, finishing, and sustainability. Cotton Incorporated has supported ITAA through event sponsorships and co-sponsored the Innovations in Cotton design awards. Its Cotton in the Curriculum grant program funds field trips, hands-on projects, and guest lectures that bridge classroom learning with industry practice. Past awardees have designed adaptive garments for people with disabilities at Colorado State, explored global production at the University of Delaware, and developed a supply chain learning module at UNCG. For this award, Cotton Incorporated has demonstrated a strong commitment to collaborating with ITAA and has a track record of impactful initiatives that benefit students and faculty in textile and apparel disciplines. The evaluation criteria emphasized collaboration, impact, dedication, and innovation.

For more details on the nomination process, which is due February 1, please visit ITAA’s Industry Excellence Award page or contact the CPC committee chair Gargi Bhaduri at gbhaduri@kent.edu.

New ITAA and Legacy Group Initiatives Expand Access to Annual Conference through Financial Support

The International Textile and Apparel Association (ITAA) is proud to announce a new initiative aimed at increasing access to the Annual Conference through targeted financial support for members. Beginning this year, ITAA and the Legacy Group will offer partial funding opportunities to assist undergraduate and graduate students, and professional members in attending the 2025 Annual Conference in St. Louis, Missouri.

This initiative reflects ITAA's ongoing commitment to professional development, and academic excellence across all levels of membership. By reducing financial barriers, ITAA hopes to support a more diverse and representative group of attendees who contribute to the vibrancy and depth of the conference experience.

Funding for this initiative will come from a combination of interest generated from the ITAA investment accounts, designated donations, and newly established giving programs—including those supported by ITAA's Legacy Group, which remains dedicated to mentoring and supporting the next generation of textile and apparel professionals.

Applicants will be required to complete a short application form, available on the ITAA website. Support will be awarded based on a combination of financial need, level of participation in the conference (e.g., presenters, presiders, award nominees), and a commitment to advancing the field of textile and apparel.

More information about eligibility criteria and deadlines is available HERE. We encourage all interested members to apply and take advantage of this opportunity to engage, network, and grow professionally at ITAA's flagship event.

TAPAC
Textile and Apparel Programs Accreditation Commission

TAPAC Announces Digital Products Creation (DPC) Certification

TAPAC is pleased to announce that TAPAC Digital Products Creation (DPC) Certification is now a possibility for textile and apparel programs that meet the TAPAC Certification Standards. The DPC Certification is available to both associate and baccalaureate level programs in textiles and apparel. Certification is currently available for programs preparing students for DPC careers in 3D Design, 3D Technical Design, and 3D Artist.

Special thanks go to Dr. Lynn Boorady of Oklahoma State University and Kirsten MacNeill of Target, and the other 3D.RC Education Committee members who brought the need for such a credential to TAPAC's attention and worked with TAPAC to bring this opportunity to fruition. The certification documents posted to the TAPAC website (www.tapacaccreditation.org/dpccert) include:

- DPC Certification Standards
- DPC Certification Self-Study Guidelines
- DPC Certification Fee Structure
- DPC Certification Eligibility Application

If you are interested in beginning the certification process, please complete and submit the DPC Certification Eligibility Application and the Application fee which is $500.00 for programs located within a TAPAC Accredited Textile and Apparel Program, or $700.00 for programs which are not currently TAPAC Accredited. To receive an invoice for the relevant fees and/or for more information about TAPAC DPC Certification, please contact Dr. Carol Warfield at executive_director@tapacaccreditation.org.

Elevate Your Work: ITAA and Partner-Sponsored Awards

We are pleased to highlight several upcoming opportunities that recognize outstanding creativity, scholarship, and innovation in the discipline. Eligible members, both student and professional, are encouraged to apply and gain international recognition for their work. These awards offer outstanding opportunities for our members to be recognized at an international level. Let us celebrate your creativity, innovation, and academic excellence! Click on the paragraph title below to get additional information.

Blanche Payne Award

Application Deadline: September 1, 2025
Undergraduate students who have had a design accepted into the 2025 ITAA Annual Design Exhibition are eligible to apply for the Blanche Payne Award. This award honors the legacy of Blanche Payne, a pioneer in costume and textile history, and recognizes excellence in undergraduate design scholarship. The Blanche Payne Scholarship is awarded to undergraduate students who demonstrate outstanding design scholarship and professional promise.

Will Conard Scholarship for Fashion Merchandising and Fashion Design

Application Deadline: December 1, 2025

Education is a journey that can be enhanced by **international perspectives, cultural enlightenment and experiential knowledge.** The Regent's University London Program can be an ideal way for you to broaden your knowledge, widen your circle of friends and expand your appreciation of foreign culture in some of the world's most dynamic cities. As such, Regents University London is offering the **Will Conard Scholarship for Fashion Merchandising and Fashion Design** to an undergraduate student member enrolled in a fashion marketing/merchandising program or a fashion design program, which has a current ITAA member on the faculty.

- **Fashion Design Award:** Presented to a student whose design demonstrates creativity, technical skill, and innovation.
- **Fashion Merchandising Award:** Awarded to a student who shows excellence in merchandising strategy, analysis, and industry relevance.

University of the Arts London Award

Application Deadline: December 1, 2025
The University of the Arts London sponsors two Summer Study Abroad Awards, one for a student and one for a faculty member. The award includes a tuition fee waiver for a 3-week Summer Study Abroad course. From Textile Design, to Fashion Design, to Fashion Business, UAL has a range of exciting Summer courses to choose from.

Call to Action: Legislative Spaces Need Textile and Apparel Scholars

In Fall 2024, Senate Bill 707, now the Responsible Textile Recovery Act (RTRA) was passed in California. The full bill can be read here. New York and Washington state are also working to pass their own extended producer responsibility (EPR) schemes addressing textile waste.

Scholars in apparel and textiles can guide legislation and regulations. EPR style bills address a small portion of ecological and social sustainability issues in the industry. Our collective expertise can provide the context legislators and governing agencies need to craft and implement laws that can more effectively decrease the impact of the fashion industry.

Start Engaging with the Legislative Space

To follow the CA legislative process, join the CalRecycle Listserv. The next meeting will be held on September 9th in Sacramento and can be attended via Zoom. You can follow the progress of New

York and Washington State online, New York: SB 3217; Washington: HB 1420.

Additionally, **anyone can write a law on textiles and apparel**, including you. If individuals outside of the field can write, lobby, petition, and attend meetings; then we need to do the same. Scholars must consider how we can collectively write data-informed legislation that makes the field better for all. You can start the process by looking at https://just-zero.org/model-legislative-toolkits/.

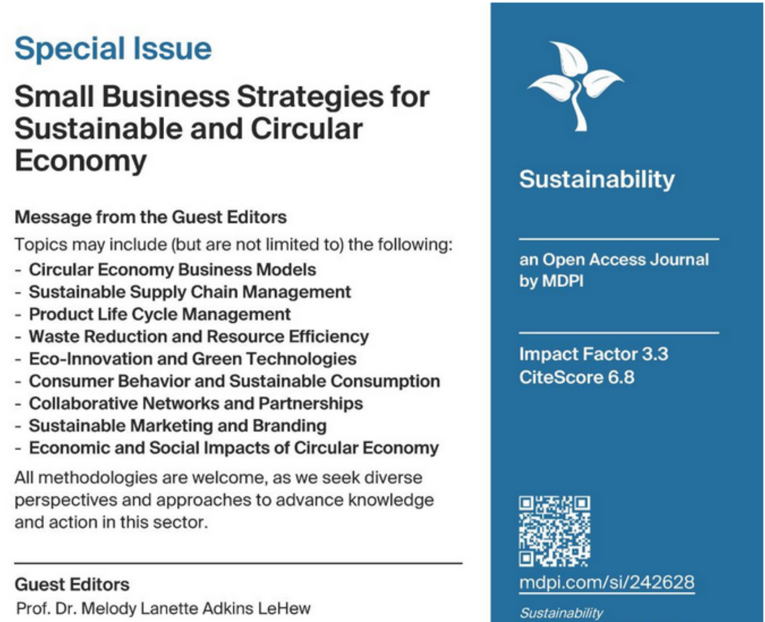
Write now!? What type of comments can I contribute?

You will want to critically read the legislation with an understanding that once a bill is passed there are less opportunities for revisions. Some definitions found in legislation may differ from academic settings but reflect national standards. In the case of the RTRA, CSU – Sacramento (CSUS) in partnership with Fibershed, are focused on addressing: (a) faults in European EPR schemes, (b) inefficiencies and impact of textile recycling, (c) composability or biodegradability of textiles, (d) social justice (e) microfibers (f) human health, (g) standards for reuse and repair (h) strategies for investments, (i) off-shoring textile waste, (j) skilled labor training for repair, and (k) ethical workplaces. CSUS is in progress of creating an open literature review portal to support letter writing on these topics.

Engagement in the Classroom

Instructors seeking to engage students should consider assigning legislation as reading. Introductory to advanced level students can critically evaluate the content of bills for accuracies and inaccuracies. They can also examine laws and consider implementation strategies, and barriers to those strategies. In states where scholars are permitted to be political, students can also craft comment letters on these laws; a project which would entail good secondary research, proper use of citations, creative and critical thinking, and strong communication skills. If located in or near a state capital, programs can encourage students to attend open workshops on textiles. In these spaces they will interact with major fashion corporations, lobbying organizations, and small business – some with and some without their knowledge of textiles and apparel – but all vying to influence legislation.

MANUSCRIPTS REQUESTED



Special Issue

Small Business Strategies for Sustainable and Circular Economy

Message from the Guest Editors

Topics may include (but are not limited to) the following:

- Circular Economy Business Models
- Sustainable Supply Chain Management
- Product Life Cycle Management
- Waste Reduction and Resource Efficiency
- Eco-Innovation and Green Technologies
- Consumer Behavior and Sustainable Consumption
- Collaborative Networks and Partnerships
- Sustainable Marketing and Branding
- Economic and Social Impacts of Circular Economy

All methodologies are welcome, as we seek diverse perspectives and approaches to advance knowledge and action in this sector.

Guest Editors

Prof. Dr. Melody Lanette Adkins LeHew

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Sustainability

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NEW POSITIONS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

- Assistant, Associate or Full Professor in Design Studies and the University of Wisconsin - Madison
- Temporary Lecturer of Fashion and Textiles and the State University of New York at Oneonta
- Instructor / Assistant Professor at Seattle Pacific University
- Assistant Professor at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago
- Fashion Tech Lab Associate at the University of Cincinnati
- Lecturer in the Department of Human Sciences at Middle Tennessee State University

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