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**Slido.com**  
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# Beyond the Runway: Bridging Industry & Academia in Textiles

## Panelists:

Prof. Sean Cormier

Tanga Crosby

Eleanor Enochs



**W O M E N**  
IN TEXTILES SUMMIT

**Description:** The textile industry extends far beyond fashion design, encompassing engineering, materials science, sustainability, manufacturing, and more. This panel will explore how to bridge the communication gap between academia and industry, ensuring that students and educators are aware of the vast career opportunities available. Experts from various textile-related fields will discuss how to better prepare students for industry roles, improve recruitment efforts, and inspire the next generation to explore the full spectrum of textile professions.



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# BEYOND THE RUNWAY

BRIDGING INDUSTRY & ACADEMIA IN TEXTILES



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**MODERATOR**



**Apurba Banerjee, PhD**

Textile Research Scientist-  
Research and Development,  
STANDARD TEXTILE

**PANELIST**



**Sean Cormier**

Associate Professor & Chair,  
Textile Development & Marketing  
Department, Fashion Institute of  
Technology (FIT)

**PANELIST**



**Tanga Crosby**

Technical Director,  
Archroma Color Management

**PANELIST**



**Eleanor Enochs**

Marketing Manager,  
DNA Technical Fabrics



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# ALIGNING ACADEMIA & INDUSTRY FOR CAREER READINESS

How can institutions like FIT ensure that students are gaining skills that align with industry needs, particularly beyond the classroom?



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From an industry perspective, what gaps do you see in how students are prepared for textile-related careers, and how can academia address them?



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# EXPANDING CAREER AWARENESS & INDUSTRY ENGAGEMENT

Many students associate  
textiles primarily with fashion.

How can we shift that perception to showcase  
the full spectrum of career opportunities in  
textiles, such as materials science, color  
management, and sustainability?



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As a graduate student, what resources or guidance have been most helpful in navigating career paths in textiles, and what do you wish was more available?

# Student Opportunities at ATA

## Student Membership

Free to students enrolled in industry-related education, for the duration of their degree program, offering exclusive access to webinars, mentoring, and more.

### Student Membership Benefits

- Mentoring & internship opportunities with ATA member companies
- Receive opportunities to connect with potential employers
- Free access to post resume on ATA Career Center
- Access to online community, CONNECT by ATA
- Free digital subscription to most relevant ATA publication
- Free webinars and member discounts on event registrations
- Access to member content/newsletter
- Student commissions awarded on first year of general membership

**More info:** [textiles.org/membership/student-membership](https://textiles.org/membership/student-membership)

## Student Ambassador Program

Be a student voice and provide leadership to ATA by participating in the following:

- Advanced Textiles Expo (and possible other events)
- ATA podcasts
- Engagement in ATA's official advisory boards and councils
- Promotion of ATA and the textiles industry via social media
- Recruitment to other students/be an example for others to join in the future

Being a student ambassador fosters leadership, communication, and personal/professional growth while creating lasting industry connections.

**For more info,** see handout at registration table or visit: [textiles.org/membership/student-ambassador](https://textiles.org/membership/student-ambassador)



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# **INNOVATION, SUSTAINABILITY & THE FUTURE OF TEXTILES**

Sustainability and innovation are shaping the future of textiles.

How can researchers and industry professionals collaborate to turn academic advancements into real-world solutions?



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What role does color management play in sustainability efforts, and how can students interested in this field better prepare for careers in it?

# Thank you!

## Questions for the panelists?



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