

# In the Market

Create Opportunities for  
Future Textile Professionals



## Extended Education Programs

> By Kathryn Swantko, contributing columnist

The future of the U. S. textile industry depends in part on the ability of textile colleges and universities to attract and inspire new students and professionals, who are needed to provide the innovation and entrepreneurship to compete in the global marketplace. In this on-going column, I will highlight educational programs and research projects that benefit today's students and textile professionals.

One notable program for working professionals is the Textile Production and Management Certificate Program at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). The initial funding for the program came from a grant from the state of California. The research portion of the grant identified the need for a certificate program and the curriculum that should be included. The first classes began in 2005. Although the California textile industry had experienced a general decline since the late '90s, the CSULA program

has continued to grow, and is now self-supporting.

As Dr. Carol Tuntland, associate professor of fashion and textiles at CSULA explains, "The current certificate program, offered through Extended Education, is a specific outreach to the textile professionals in the Los Angeles area. The program has been in place for approximately three years, and has doubled in size since its inception."

The certificate program offers working professionals a coordinated series of practical education courses for career advancement and helps fill the need for training resources for technical and management personnel in the LA textile industry.

The program consists of nine courses taught by industry executives with expertise in their respective field. Five of the courses are required and four are electives. The full program provides a total of 10 Continuing Education Units (CEUs), and participants

are awarded a Certificate of Completion. Those who elect to only take individual courses receive a Letter of Completion for each course taken. Classes are not applicable for academic credit or transfer.

With the success of the Textile Production and Management Certificate Program, the university continues to look for ways to enhance its textile offerings. "Schools always need to be aware of new opportunities in the performance textile market, and be ready to incorporate those new areas of interest into their textile curriculum," Tuntland notes. "The textile classes in the BA curriculum at CSULA now include a textile performance class and an advanced textile course. These specialized university courses can now also be taken as a single class by any textile professional through the extended education program."

Kathryn Swantko created [TheTechnicalCenter.com](http://TheTechnicalCenter.com) for industry networking and promotion of specialty textiles, and [FabricLink.com](http://FabricLink.com) for consumer education about everything fabric. [kgswantko@fabriclink.com](mailto:kgswantko@fabriclink.com)

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