DESIGN COLLABORATION BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND ACADEMIA AND CAMPUS TO CAMPUS

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As new technologies become affordable and reliable, new ways of interacting are possible. In textile and apparel design it is possible for colleges to create projects that involve indus-try and campus collaborators.

Cornell University, Buffalo State College, and Philadelphia College of Textiles and Science participated in a collaborative project of this nature with three different industry collab-orators in three different years. The projects differed slightly each year but the basic concept was to use distance technologies to connect student textile and apparel design teams from the different institutions. Students worked on projects proposed, reviewed, and critiqued by the industry collaborators. The collaborators were Melton Shirt Company, JC Penney, and Liz Claiborne. All contact among participants was maintained using distance technologies includeing presentation of sketches, design conferences, and critiques.

The projects grew in number of participants, scope of the project, and use of technology each year. For the Liz Claiborne project in the final year 28 students worked together on a project along with seven designers from Liz Claiborne. The students created collections complete with mood boards, texture mapped illustrations, flats, and textile swatches.

The technologies used included video conferencing, telephone conference calls, e-mail, and document conferencing over the Internet. Important issues addressed include careful scheduling to insure regular, productive conferences, careful matching of the technical capabilities of each site, and prior understanding of the pedagogical goals of the project. The development of trust between participants is critical to a successful collaboration.