

## **Outcome #6**

### **Individual college reports on Textile Arts or Fashion Design programs**

#### **California State University San Francisco:**

I met Victor de la Rosa, the only full-time faculty in textile arts, at SF State. He introduced me to the schools' textile program and gave me a tour of the facilities. His own artistic and academic interest centers on computer-interfaced technology utilizing jacquard power looms, digital fabric printers and laser cutters. A new laser cutter was installed in an ancillary room connected with a 3-D arts studio and can be used for cutting stencils, laser cut fabric, and creating unique fabric surfaces. This is something I recommend for the Cabrillo Art Department using the newly available laser cutter. There are three studios dedicated to textiles, one for weaving, one for dyeing, and the other is a general-purpose room that can be used for printing. Minors and majors with a concentration in textile arts are available. The current enrollment is about sixty-two students taking three different textile courses this semester. Previously there have been 4-5 courses taught each semester. Declared majors with an emphasis in textiles vary from 4-6 each year. An M.F.A. is offered with an emphasis in textiles. Cabrillo has students transferring into the art and design programs each year.

As is the case with CSULB a B.S. degree in Apparel Design and Merchandising is offered through the College of Health and Human Sciences. There is little crossover with Art Studio but students can take elective courses in textiles, weaving, and surface design.

#### **California State University Long Beach:**

I toured the College of the Arts facility with faculty Roxanne Sexauer. We visited the very impressive print making rooms, including screen printing studios. The fiber arts program is extensive and occupies an entire second floor of the ceramics and sculpture building. This includes a dedicated weaving and loom studio, two dye labs, a mixed-use studio for construction and printing, an outdoor studio for surface design, yarn and dry cloth lab, and a sewing and construction studio. Degrees: B.A. with an option in Studio Art, B.F.A with option in 3-D Media and a Fiber Art concentration, M.A. with a Studio Arts concentration, M.F.A. Fiber Arts Track. Currently there is only one full-time faculty in fiber arts, previously two, and four lecturers. No real industry connections other than fine arts organizations. No job statistics. Courses per semester – 4 to 5. Declared majors in fiber arts varies from 10-12. Many of our emeritus faculty, from the Art Department, have degrees from Long Beach.

CSULB also offers degrees in Fashion Merchandising and Design through the College of Health and Human Services. This is similar to the program at San Francisco.

#### **University of California Davis:**

I visited this campus when I picked up my newest pug from an animal rescue society near Davis in the spring of this year. I've always been curious about the place as I've known for many years of the importance and vibrancy of the arts program. It was also suggested that I visit the college by a colleague from the textile arts field. The Art Studio program does not offer textile or fiber arts courses and degrees. Here the strength is in painting, sculpture,

and ceramics. However there are majors in Design with an emphasis on Clothing and Textile Design through the College of Letters and Science with three lower division studio courses: surface design, textile design structures, and structural design for fashion. Upper division courses offer greater depth and exploration including screen and digitally printed fabric. Textiles and Clothing and Fiber and Polymer Science majors are offered through the College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences. Both offer B.A.s and M.F.A. degrees.

### **West Valley College:**

I toured WVC's design program at the end of last semester during finals week. I spoke with faculty Kae Min about the program and she welcomed me to snoop around on my own as she and the two other full-time faculty were knee deep in finals. I was impressed with WVC's facilities. They are surely more impressive now after a remodel and move during this past summer. This is the largest college in North America offering Gerber Technology "AccuMark" System for computer-aided patternmaking, grading and marking. This system is used by major manufacturers throughout the world. The college offers an Associate Degree in Fashion Design, Certificate Apparel Production, and Associate Degree in Apparel Production. The program also has an advisory board of professionals representing the design and apparel industry. Enrollment varies between 18-20 for the certificate programs and 40-60 for the A.A. and transfer.

### **Monterey Peninsula College:**

I decided to visit MPC, and not Foothill Community College, because of their proximity to Cabrillo, and the certificates they offer in Fashion Design. The Art Department has discontinued the fiber and textile arts program. The tools and equipment have been liquidated in the last several years. Through the Life Sciences Division certificates and A.S. degrees are offered in Fashion Merchandising, Production, and Design. Twenty courses are listed in the catalog and are scheduled on a rotating basis. These courses are mostly taught by full-time faculty Sunshine Giesler. The program has three adjuncts that alternatively teach available courses. Five of these courses are scheduled this Fall and four for the Spring semester. Enrollment is currently at 43. This is a much smaller program than West Valley College but offers a strong curriculum for the certificate. I thought it important to note that I have taught in the Art Department at MPC for ten years and was the gallery director for several years.

### **California College of the Arts:**

This is a fairly small fine arts school, as compared to FIDM or Parsons, and is located in Oakland and San Francisco. It's also where I received my B.F.A in 1981. Cabrillo transfers at least 3 art majors to this school each year. CCA offers degrees in both fine art textile, fiber arts, and fashion design. I met with Nance O'Banion, textile faculty and artist. I've known Nance since working at the Allrich Gallery in San Francisco, she was one of the gallery artists, in 1984-86. She was also an exhibiting artist at the Cabrillo Gallery before my tenure as director. Richard Elliot, faculty in textiles and an acquaintance of mine, has taught in our CabrilloARTS summer program and was part of a fiber arts exhibition I curated for Cabrillo. He introduced me to some of the projects his current students have been producing. Both he and Nance gave me a brief tour of the small but well equipped Oakland campus studios for the current fall enrollment of 35. The textiles facilities include

a 40 floor-loom weaving studio, a print studio and shared screen printing dark room (shared with print making), a dye lab, and a fiber sculpture studio. Like many contemporary textile and fiber arts programs digital equipment is part of the facility. CCA also has a separate successful fashion design program located in the San Francisco campus. Here industry professionals teach students the basics of fashion design leading to a B.F.A degree and final fashion show for graduating students.

### **The New School: Parsons:**

I visited Parsons while in New York visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art. This college is part of the New School, formerly known as The New School for Social Research. Parsons has five colleges and offers degrees in fine arts, fashion design, and many other art and design related categories. I focused my visit at the School of Art, Media, and Technology because of the strong print making program as well as painting and fashion. This school offers a B.F.A in fine arts and the curriculum is somewhat self-motivated while completing 134 credits. The uniqueness of this program gives a student the opportunity to learn all the traditional techniques related to painting, drawing, and sculpture, but they also learn to work more innovatively and are encouraged to extend the boundaries of contemporary art. Students work in a range of media, experimenting with public engagement, video, animation, photography, and digital imaging. There are nearly 50 full-time faculty that teach in this college with a student to faculty ratio of 9 to 1. College-wide there are nearly 6800 students from a broad cross-section of states and countries. If I was starting my studies again or pursuing a new degree I'd attend this school.

### **Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising:**

FIDM was not listed on my original proposal but I felt it necessary to include it as part of my research. I toured both campuses in San Francisco and Los Angeles. In San Francisco I was part of an annual open house event that offered an introduction to the schools facility and curriculum. A part of the open house included an introduction to the new job placement administrator. This was interesting to learn about the high percentage of students placed in industry jobs. The college places great emphasis on the dedicated faculty of industry professionals. For the Los Angeles visit I was part of a daily scheduled drop in tour. Two other campuses exist, one in Irvine, the other in San Diego. FIDM offers 26 majors overall and an A.A. degree, Advance Degree programs, and a B.A. and B.S. The San Francisco campus is unique in that it is two blocks from Union Square in the middle of large retail businesses. The Los Angeles campus, the larger of the two, is on the edge of the disappearing garment district. Both campuses are in high-rise structures lending a corporate feel to the schools. These are expensive places to attend and students can feel burdened by the cost. I had one student return to Cabrillo from FIDM SF to complete her A.A. because of this. However these schools offer rigorous training focusing on current industry demands. This is not a fine art focused curriculum. However such fine art approaches to surface design and jewelry making are covered in certain classes. The larger number of students are enrolled in the L.A. campus, nearly 3000.