



Drexel's Transdisciplinary Advanced Manufacturing Hub for Functional Textiles

On November 14th, Governor Wolf, Mayor Kenny and President Fry announced the establishment of the Pennsylvania Fabric Discovery Center (PA FDC) at Drexel. The PA FDC is the first national node in the Advanced Functional Fabrics of America Institute (AFFOA) advanced manufacturing network to be established outside of Massachusetts. The goal of the Center is to facilitate growth in the advanced fabric space and to create new textile technologies as a service. The PA FDC will engage with a wide variety of industries, non-profits, universities, and governmental agencies across the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to take lab innovations to full prototypes capable of being produced at scale. The PA FDC will be housed at the Center for Functional Fabrics (CFF), home of the Shima Seiki Haute Tech lab, and the Drexel Area of Research Excellence (DARE) team, Integrated Design Research and Engineering for Advanced Manufacturing (IDREAM) of Functional Fabrics.

CFF is a transdisciplinary R&D “end-to-end” advanced manufacturing hub for functional textiles. CFF’s mission to further the field of functional fabrics and to foster the creation of innovative textile platforms that will transform the way we work, live and interact with the world. Currently located at the ExCITe Center, CFF will relocate in Schuylkill Yards in late 2018. The PA FDC will enable CFF to further its vision of developing textile interfaces from basic research (IDREAM) to small scale production and commercialization.

We are currently putting processes in place for engagement in research, education and industry outreach and look forward to working with you as we move forward in establishing this transdisciplinary center.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact us at functionalfabrics@drexel.edu.

Regards,

Genevieve

*Geneviève Dion
Director, Center for Functional Fabrics
Associate Professor, Design Department
Westphal College of Media Arts and Design
Founder, Shima Seiki Haute Tech Lab at ExCITe
Drexel University
<http://drexel.edu/FutureFabrics>*

