University of Missouri’s Textile and Apparel Management program presents an online panel made up of three industry experts discussing sustainable sourcing practices in today’s global fashion industry, opportunities and challenges, and expectations for fashion and textile students. Funding for this event was provided by Cotton Incorporated.

For further information contact: gebwm9@mail.missouri.edu
Jeff Hux is a second-generation farmer from the southeast Missouri town of Sikeston. His farm operation includes cotton, field corn, and popcorn. Cotton production accounts for 84% of the total operation. Cotton has been a part of the Hux family operation from its start in agriculture. In addition to farming, Jeff also is involved in land management and cotton ginning businesses. Jeff earned a B.S. in agricultural systems management with a minor in agronomy from Texas A&M University. Jeff serves on the boards of directors for Cotton Incorporated and for the Cotton Producers of Missouri.

Michele Dando is an apparel industry leader with 20 years’ experience working for major department stores and specialty retailers. Her focus is on Product Development, Sourcing and Production. Michele is currently a private consultant helping emerging brands establish stable yet agile supply chains along with processes to support product development. Michele graduated with a degree in Textile & Apparel Management with a focus on Manufacturing from Mizzou. She is currently pursuing a Masters in Supply Chain Management from Michigan State University however she will always be a Tiger. M-I-Z!

Juan Zighelboim is the Co-founder and current President of TexOps. TexOps is a producer for multiple major retailers in the activewear and performance apparel. Juan graduated with a BS in Business Administration, concentration in Finance from the University of Florida - Gainesville in 1980. He was born in Maracaibo, Venezuela, and raised in Miami, FL, he currently resides in San Salvador, El Salvador.

Mark Messura serves as Senior Vice President, Global Supply Chain Marketing for Cotton Incorporated, where he is responsible for the company’s global marketing and technical support programs with retailers, brands, and manufacturers. Mr. Messura is a frequent speaker and advisor to the textile industry on issues related to sustainability, responsible sourcing, supply chain strategy, and fiber economics. He holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan in economics and an M.A. in policy analysis from Duke University.