As Gen Z and Millennials are transitioning into higher education and the workforce, a gap between what teachers are teaching today and the unknown needed skills of the future is widening, and there will be up to five generations in “the workforce”, resulting in a wide array of expectations, competencies, etc. (Wiedmer, 2015). The fashion industry is experiencing a revolution not only by rapidly evolving technology, but from consumer demands for more sustainable and socially responsible practices. In order to move forward, questions for consideration include:

- Will our existing curricula be relevant to support the needs of this generation?
- How can our institutions act upon these provocations so these students may thrive in industry?
- How might we adapt and evolve our approaches and practices in education necessary to prepare this new cohort of learners?

The purpose of this workshop is to discuss and project a new direction for fashion design curricula, keeping these questions, among others, in mind. Participants will be led through a concept ideation process to draw on their own experiences and challenges in order to anticipate future learners’ needs. This workshop will be an opportunity for fashion scholars and educators to share common problems and identify future solutions for best practices to proactively shape fashion design curricula for a new generation of learners.

From this workshop, participants will be able to:

- Identify challenges in teaching emerging cultural group(s)
- Explore industry advancements that warrant critical competencies and skills for the future
- Establish core pillars of the future of fashion design education
- Receive action-oriented handouts with tools/techniques for facilitating change in participants’ own fashion apparel design curriculums