

Pre-Con | October 4, 2026

12:00 – 4:00 PM	Early Registration & Check In
2:00 – 4:00 PM	Herman & Myrtle Goldstein Scholars Present
5:00– 7:00 PM	Opening Exhibitors Reception

Day 1 | October 5, 2026

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Registration & Refreshments
9:00 – 9:15 AM	Opening Remarks & Welcome <i>Christina Rapa, AATCC President</i>
9:15 – 10:00 AM	<p>Opening Plenary Keynote-The Future of Performance: Innovating Solutions for a Changing World <i>Gary Peck, The S Group</i></p> <p>Performance apparel is evolving beyond athletic achievement to meet the demands of an increasingly diverse and dynamic world. Drawing on decades of experience developing advanced textile solutions for aerospace applications, adaptive apparel, and elite athletes, Gary Peck will share how perseverance, curiosity, and a relentless commitment to solving complex problems have fueled innovation throughout his career. Blending personal lessons in resilience with insights into materials, engineering, and user-centered design, he will demonstrate how the mindset required to overcome challenges is the same one that drives breakthrough performance solutions. You will leave inspired to embrace obstacles as opportunities and equipped with a fresh perspective on leading innovation in an ever-changing industry.</p>

Break (30 Mins)

	Testing for Claim Substantiation	Wet Processing	Haptics/Comfort
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Antimicrobial Textile Testing Maximizing Precision and Performance with Certified Reference Materials and Appropriate Antimicrobial Additives <i>Donald P. Satchell, Sisu Biosciences LLC</i></p>	<p>Next-Generation Cotton Pretreatment: Stronger, Cleaner, and Functionally Superior Through Wax-Preserving Chemistry <i>Hasan Shahaniar, Innovo Fiber, LLC</i></p>	<p>Digitizing Haptics: The New Frontier of Comfort <i>Harrie Schoots, Revive USA Textile Consulting</i></p>
	<p>Aligning Test Methods and Standards with Defensible Product Claims <i>Ben Mead, Hohenstein</i></p>	<p>Chemical Intervention through Innovative Finishing Technologies as a Scalable and Economically Viable Mitigation Pathway for Fiber Fragmentation & Microfiber/Microplastic Shedding <i>John Mitchell, Livinguard Technologies</i></p>	<p>Taking the “Hand” out of Fabric Hand <i>John Crocker, SDL Atlas</i></p>
	<p>Sweat Management Tester: Evaluation of Fabric Sweat Management Properties Under Profuse Sweating Conditions <i>Jintu Fan, Hong Kong Polytechnic University</i></p>	<p>Advancements in PFAS Free Water Repellent Technology; Addressing Challenges and Current Solutions <i>Nina Cohen, Microban International</i></p>	<p>Preserving Protective Fabric Comfort Without PFAS <i>Frank Keenan, Organic Dyes and Pigments</i></p>

12:00 – 1:30 PM | Lunch

	LED Lighting	RISE Young Professionals	Thermal & Cooling Evaluations
1:30 – 3:00 PM	<p>How to Profit from the Transition to LEDs in the Supply Chain and Store Lighting <i>Steve Paolini, Teitelumen LLC</i></p>	<p>Mentor Match Lab Looking to grow your network and learn from industry leaders? Mentor Match Lab is a fast-paced mentoring experience designed to spark valuable conversations and lasting professional connections. Meet with experienced professionals, gain practical career insights, ask questions, exchange ideas, and explore mentorship opportunities that can support your career well beyond the Summit.</p>	<p>Using Thermal Imaging to Evaluate Cooling and Wicking of Fabrics <i>Emiel DenHartog, NC State University</i></p>
	<p>Panel Discussion: Selecting the Right LED Lighting: Methodologies for Accurate Color Evaluation and Testing <i>Moderated by Jessica Brooks, WI Gore</i> Panelists: <i>Carol Revels, Walmart</i> <i>Chris Hipps, VeriVide</i> <i>Doug Bynum, natick AG</i> <i>Steve Paolini, Teitelumen LLC</i></p> <p>As the textile and apparel industry continues to transition to LED illumination, selecting the appropriate lighting solution has become increasingly complex. This panel discussion will examine the methodologies, performance criteria, and industry considerations used to evaluate and select LED lighting for color assessment, testing, and quality assurance applications. Experts will share practical guidance on balancing color accuracy, consistency, compliance, and operational needs to support reliable decision-making across the supply chain.</p>	<p>Committees 101: Shape the Future of Industry Standards <i>Nathaniel Williams, AATCC</i></p> <p>Curious about how AATCC test methods and standards are developed? Join this interactive session to learn how AATCC committees operate, why volunteer participation matters, and how emerging professionals can play an active role in shaping the future of textile testing, evaluation, and innovation. Connect with committee leaders, explore opportunities to contribute, and take the first step toward becoming an industry influencer.</p>	<p>Panel Discussion: Taking the Feelings out of Hand Feel <i>Moderated by Harrie Schoots, Revive USA Textile Consulting</i></p> <p>“Soft,” “comfortable,” and “luxurious” are among the most common descriptors used in textile development, but they are often highly subjective. This panel discussion will explore the science behind fabric hand, comfort, and haptics, examining the tools, testing methods, and emerging technologies that help brands and manufacturers objectively measure sensory performance. Industry experts will discuss how data-driven approaches can improve product development, quality control, and consumer satisfaction while reducing reliance on subjective evaluation.</p>

Break (30 mins)

3:30 – 4:30 PM	<p>Plenary Keynote <i>Nicole Bivens Collinson, Collinson, Sandier, Travis & Rosenberg, P.A.</i></p> <p>Join internationally recognized trade expert Nicole Bivens Collinson as she shares timely insights on the evolving trade landscape and what textile professionals need to know to navigate uncertainty and capitalize on emerging opportunities. With decades of experience in trade negotiations, government relations, and textile policy, Nicole delivers a uniquely informed perspective on the forces shaping the future of global commerce.</p>
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Exhibitor & Poster Reception
5:30 - 8PM	Dinner & Textile Bowl

Day 2 | October 6, 2026

8:00 – 9:00 AM	Breakfast & Exhibits
8:30 – 9:00 AM	Olney Medal Address
9:00 – 10:00 AM	<p>Plenary Keynote <i>Nancy Rhodes - CEO, Alternew & The Ownership Intelligence Lab</i></p> <p>What can we learn from a garment after it leaves the store? Nancy Rhodes challenges conventional thinking about product lifecycle management by exploring how care, repair, warranty, and ownership data can reveal new opportunities for better products, stronger customer relationships, and more measurable sustainability outcomes.</p>

Break (30 mins)

	Test Methods	Coloration	Artificial Intelligence
10:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<p>Smoke, Ash, and Fabric Performance: Testing and Modeling of Wildland Firefighter Protective Clothing Textiles <i>Sumit Mandal, Oklahoma State University</i></p>	<p>Targeting Dye Transfer Due to Powder Laundry Detergent Formulations <i>Elizabeth Kelkis, University of Leeds</i></p>	<p>Using AI to Create Transformational Change in Recycling: Fabric Structure Identification and Impacts <i>Karen K. Larpas, NC State University</i></p>
	<p>Filled Textile: Manufacturing, Testing, Labeling & Sustainability <i>Keith Wilson, International Down & Feather Testing Laboratory</i></p>	<p>Beyond Color Approval: The Hidden Metrics that Define Product Quality <i>Ryan Stanley, X-Rite / Pantone</i></p>	<p>Automating the Last Mile of Textile Product Production with Automatic Sewing and Cutting <i>Jim Manelski, FastSewn Aps</i></p>
	<p>Weathering the Elements: A Novel Application of TM022 for Assessing Long-Term DWR Performance in Marine Environments <i>Morgan Cooper, Mustang Survival</i></p>	<p>Evolution of Visual and Digital Evaluation Tools for Color Assessment, Fastness Grading and Stain Analysis <i>Stephen Tongue and Adam Dakin, VeriVide</i></p>	<p>AI-Powered Hyperspectral Imaging: Real-Time Fiber Identification for a Sustainable Textile Supply Chain with SpecIMRETEX – Powered by Konica Minolta <i>Kimberley Zhang, Konica Minolta Sensing America</i></p>

	Colour Management	Traceability / Restricted Substances	Fiber Advancements
12:00 – 12:30 PM	<p>nVSMC: Rethinking Observer Assumptions for Reliable On-Screen Color Evaluation <i>Andreas Roth, natick AG</i></p>	<p>Streamlining Material and Trim Sampling to Streamline Traceability Data Gathering <i>Deb Zell, PluReturn</i></p>	<p>Progresses in Recent Development of Sustainable Fibers and Textiles <i>Giang Sun, University of California, Davis</i></p>

12:30 – 2:00 PM | Awards Luncheon

2:30-3:30PM	<p>Closing Panel Discussion Repair at Scale: Aligning Stakeholders Across the Textile Ecosystem Panelists: <i>Nancy Rhodes - CEO, Alternew & The Ownership Intelligence Lab</i> <i>Beth Forsberg - Chief Sustainability Officer, Goodwill</i> <i>Rebecca Geppert - Director of Partnerships, ReFibered</i></p> <p>As regulations, consumer expectations, and circularity goals continue to evolve, repair is emerging as a critical component of the textile value chain. This expert panel brings together leaders in textile recovery, workforce development, materials intelligence, and post-purchase services to explore what it will take to build scalable repair infrastructure, and how collaboration across the ecosystem can extend product life, reduce waste, and create measurable impact.</p>
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3:30-5PM	<p>Wilmington Excursion BattleShip Tour: Textiles in the 1940's</p>
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