

# International Coatings Brings the Lab to the Classroom

While looking into new water-based plastisols for textile printing at a previous Expo, Pasadena City College Professor and SGIA educator member Kris Pilon found something even more valuable for her students. During the 2007 Expo in Orlando, Pilon ran into Ed Branigan, director of research and development for International Coatings Ink Co. (Cerritos, California). She was amazed that it took a trip across the country to meet someone who worked just a few miles away from where she has taught screen printing for years. When she inquired about bringing students to the International Coating's facility for a tour, Branigan suggested that instead, he should come to the college to demonstrate new inks and let the students experiment.

Over the years, Branigan's visits to the College have become a regular part of the textile printing classes and each semester students look forward to the new ideas and printed samples. According to Pilon, his creativity and openness in sharing all the ins and outs of many wonderful techniques has become an inspiration to the students. The College offers beginning and advanced textile screen printing courses, which have been greatly enhanced by Branigan's presentations.

"Ed brings new inks and new techniques for printing, shows us the ins and outs and provides samples for hands-on student activities. It's gotten us over the initial hesitation of using things like discharge and blow-out

bases, so we're teaching many more interesting inks than we would be otherwise," says Pilon. "SGIA is a great place to meet people who can provide this kind of benefit to a school or business."

Through this initial contact, ICC has reached out to schools in the LA area and now Branigan presents at a number of high schools in addition to the Community College. The PCC Graphic Communications Technology Program offers courses in digital imaging as well as many facets of screen printing, which lead to several occupational skills certificates. The program serves more than 300 students each semester.

**"Branigan's visits to the college have become a regular part of the textile printing classes and each semester students look forward to the new ideas and printed samples."**

