In an era of continually evolving innovation – from cybersecurity and the Internet of Things, to biotechnology and quantum computing – U.S. companies need a workforce that understands the value of standards and their role as the underpinnings of technology.

To help meet this need, U.S. colleges and universities are integrating standards into curricula in STEM and non-STEM programs such as business, law, and public policy. The standards community is actively involved in supporting these efforts. NIST has been working to boost awareness, the number of schools offering standards-related curricula, and the quality of content through its Standards Services Curricula Development Cooperative Agreement Program. ANSI, through its Committee on Education, and other standards developing organizations are offering opportunities for schools and students to get involved. But there is more to be done.

This symposium joined together participants from industry, the standards community, and academia to look at the work of several institutions of higher education, prompting an exploration of the next steps towards better preparing students and young professionals for careers in which standards are intertwined. The interactive and engaging format allowed participants to identify opportunities for increased engagement in education initiatives for the standardization community.