ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY holds a prominent place in the MU Department of Textile and Apparel Management’s list of accomplishments. Textile and Apparel Management (TAM) administrators proudly tout their Kitty Dickerson Technology Classroom, a computer-based center featuring state-of-the-art industry equipment and software, as well as the Kellwood Apparel Technology Lab and other technology-oriented department features.

TAM associate professor emerita Betty Dillard has had a lot to do with those achievements.

Dillard, a Columbia resident, designed a TAM product development and apparel manufacturing program during the 1990s to incorporate technology innovations that were changing the field. The new, high-technology program combined manufacturing, marketing and merchandising, computerizing processes that had been completed manually in the past, Dillard recalls. Though the name of the departments in the College of Human Environmental Sciences has changed over the years, the academic foundation Dillard established clearly remains.

“I worked with industry to see what we needed to have to make the program viable and attractive to students...” - Betty Dillard

The skills Dillard used to renovate TAM’s curriculum have stood her in good stead during her retirement. She worked as a volunteer for more than 10 years for the Habitat for Humanity organization, using the marketing and people skills she honed over the years to benefit the affordable housing group. “I guess I’ve always been a detail person,” Dillard acknowledges.

Dillard has received the Habitat for Humanity’s Golden Hammer Award for donating 1,000 hours of service.