Elsa Reichmanis is Brook Byers Professor of Sustainability and Professor, School of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Prior to joining Georgia Tech, she was Bell Labs Fellow and Director of the Materials Research Department, Bell Labs, Murray Hill, NJ. She received her Ph.D. and BS degrees in chemistry from Syracuse University. Her research, at the interface of chemical engineering, chemistry, materials science, optics, and electronics, spans from fundamental concept to technology development and implementation. Her interests include the chemistry, properties and application of materials technologies for photonic and electronic applications, with particular focus on polymeric and nanostructured materials for advanced technologies. Currently, efforts aim to identify fundamental parameters that will enable sub-nanometer scale dimensional control of organic, polymer and/or hybrid semiconductor materials to meet the vision and expectations for flexible, printed electronic devices, display technologies, and low-cost, portable solutions for energy storage and conversion. She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and has received several awards for her work, including the SCI Perkin Medal and the ACS Award in Applied Polymer Science. She has also been active in professional societies; she served as 2003 President of the ACS, and has participated in many National Research Council activities.

Abstract: To provide a view on sustainability from the academic sector, this presentation will explore how our educational infrastructure can help promote a global culture of sustainability. Focal points include building a multidisciplinary environment through i) university wide initiatives such as Georgia Tech’s Brook Byers Institute for Sustainable Systems, ii) externally funded educational activities such as the NSF funded NESAC IGERT program, iii) opportunities for industrial-academic research partnerships, and iv) individual research in materials chemistries for advanced technologies. Together, these examples demonstrate how academic institutions can enhance their “research, education, and service missions, and campus operations through leadership, communications, development, and decision making inspired and defined by the principles of sustainability”.