



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**FERRIS BOARD OF TRUSTEES CONFER  
HONORARY DOCTORAL DEGREE UPON MIKE DALEY**

**BIG RAPIDS** – (May 10, 2006) – The Ferris State University Board of Trustees conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Business and Industry upon Mike Daley during the University’s Spring commencement ceremony held on Saturday, May 6, 2006. Daley delivered a response during the ceremony held for graduates of Michigan College of Optometry and the College of Education and Human Services.

Daley also delivered the key note address to graduates of the Michigan College of Optometry during the commencement and hooding ceremony held on Friday, May 5, 2006. His speech was titled “Optometry’s Clear and Bright Future.”

A distinguished graduate of Ferris, Daley earned both his Bachelor of Science degree and Associate of Applied Science degree at Ferris in the 1970s. His relationship with the University continued as he provided instruction in Optical Technology for Ferris.

Daley began his career with Essilor of America in 1976, serving as a Varilux Corporation sales consultant. He soon received several promotions within Varilux Corporation, including positions as assistant technical manager, product manager, director of technical services, vice president of laboratory operations and vice president of sales. In 1989, Daley became president of Varilux Corporation. In 1996, Daley was appointed president and COO of Essilor of America’s United States Lens Division, known as Essilor Lenses, following the merger of Varilux Corporation with Silor Optical.

Daley’s relationship with Ferris has facilitated the establishment of an Ophthalmic Fabrication Laboratory in the Michigan College of Optometry. His professional career includes distinguished service, both past and present, on numerous boards in the opticianry and optometric fields. He serves as secretary/treasurer on the board of directors for the Vision Council of America (VCA) and also serves as chairman for the VCA’s Education Task Force and the Government Relations Committee. His service on the Boards of Governors and Directors for blindness prevention agencies is truly reflective of his passion and commitment to his industry.

Born in Maine, Daley, his wife, Cathy, and their two sons currently reside in Tarpon Springs, Florida.

*Photos available upon request.*

**About Essilor of America**

Essilor is the leading manufacturer of optical lenses in the United States and is the market leader in progressive, high-index and anti-reflective coated lenses. A pioneer in the development and production of ophthalmic lenses, Essilor employs over 6,100 people in more than 100 facilities throughout the 50 states. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux<sup>®</sup>, Crizal<sup>®</sup>, Thin&Lite<sup>®</sup>, DEFINITY<sup>™</sup> and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America (ELOA) is the largest, and most trusted, optical lab network in the U.S. and offers a wide choice of services and lens brands, including Essilor premium lenses, to eye care professionals across the nation. Essilor of America, Inc. (Essilor) is a subsidiary of Paris-based Essilor International, S.A., a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: ESSI.PA).

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