



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Kristan Willingham  
Essilor of America  
214-496-4463  
kristan.willingham@essilorusa.com

**ESSILOR ANNOUNCES 2011 STUDENT GRANT AWARDS**  
*Illinois College of Optometry Student Awarded Top Honors*

**DALLAS – May 23, 2011** – Essilor of America, the nation’s leading manufacturer of optical lenses, today announces the winners of the 2011 Varilux® Student Grant Awards, a nationwide competition among optometry students. This year, 17 students were awarded \$1,000 each in grant money from Varilux, and from those winners, one national award was given.

The honor of the 2011 national award belongs to Laura Talianu, a fourth year student from Illinois College of Optometry in Chicago. Talianu wrote the winning case study titled “New Onset Presbyopia and Varilux® Physio® Progressive Lenses Case.” The case study examined how one gentleman was able to overcome his presbyopia symptoms by switching to Varilux Physio lenses.

“At Essilor, we realize the optometry students of today are the optometry leaders of tomorrow,” said Dr. Rodney Tahrán, vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs, Essilor of America. “Essilor is committed to investing in the education of our future leaders of healthcare, and the annual Varilux Student Grant Award is just one of the many professional development programs Essilor offers for students and professionals alike.”

Talianu and her staff advisor Tahrira Bedgood will each receive an all-expenses paid trip for two to Optometry’s Meeting to be held June 15-19 in Salt Lake City, Utah. Talianu will be a guest at the 20<sup>th</sup> annual Varilux Optometry Student Bowl, the highly anticipated annual event sponsored by Essilor, and will receive \$1,000 in prize money.

The students' case studies were reviewed by a panel of judges and were reviewed on criteria including: dispensing skills, application of Varilux lenses to patient needs, analysis of the case(s) and analysis of the lens design and lens performance. Talianu's report is available to view at [essilorusa.com](http://essilorusa.com) under the "Services" section. Other 2011 winners are listed below:

- Tim Hougland, University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry
- Justine Aguilar, Pacific University College of Optometry
- Jaclyn Wray, University of California at Berkeley School of Optometry
- Chuong Dao, New England College of Optometry
- Lauren Nelson, University of Houston College of Optometry
- Aaron McNulty, Indiana University College of Optometry
- Jillian Meadows, The Ohio State University - College of Optometry
- Glenda Berman, Southern California College of Optometry
- Merin Graves, University of Alabama at Birmingham College of Optometry
- Chris Butcher, Northeastern State University
- Mariam Nathal, University of Waterloo, School of Optometry
- Sandip Randhawa, State University New York College of Optometry
- Jeffrey Lant, Southern College of Optometry
- Nadine Kerbrat, Pennsylvania College of Optometry
- Sara Lahoud, Universite de Montreal Ecole d'optometrie
- Christina Hines, Western University of Health Sciences

#### **About Essilor**

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 more than 9,000 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux<sup>®</sup>, Crizal<sup>®</sup>, Thin&Lite<sup>®</sup>, Xperio<sup>®</sup> and 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 eyecare 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).

###

Essilor, Varilux, Crizal, Xperio, DEFINITY and Physio are registered trademarks of Essilor International. Thin&Lite is a registered trademark of Essilor of America, Inc.