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**ESSILOR CELEBRATES 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
VARILUX OPTOMETRY STUDENT BOWL**

*Pennsylvania College of Optometry Took Top Honors in Front of over 1,000
Students, Practitioners and Staff*

DALLAS (June 20, 2011) – Essilor of America, the nation's leading manufacturer of optical lenses, once again pulled out all of the stops to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the ever-popular Varilux[®] Optometry Student Bowl[™], held at this year's Optometry's Meeting in Salt Lake City. This year promised to be bigger and better than ever and did not disappoint. Contestants, students from all schools and colleges of optometry, answered optometry-related questions while their fellow classmates energetically cheered them on wearing war paint and school colors and displaying brightly-colored banners.

The stakes were high. In addition to bragging rights, the winning school, Pennsylvania College of Optometry, took home \$1,000 and the coveted crystal trophy. Second and third place winners, Oklahoma College of Optometry and SCCO, received \$750 and \$500, respectively. The winning question, "You are fitting your patient with SCLs who has the following refractive error: ODL +2.00-1.00 X 085. OS: +3.00-1.25 X 080. Assuming no tear lens is present with the diagnostic CLs in place, what is the expected over-refraction if the spherical diagnostic SCLs are +3.00 OD and +1.50 OS?" was correctly answered by Ian McWherter. This year's competition drew well over 1,000 students, practitioners and staff.

Last year's Spirit Award winner, Pacific University College of Optometry, created an entertaining 3D video to detail the rules of the competition, which is available for viewing on YouTube at YouTube.com/VariluxSuperBowl. University of Missouri – St. Louis College of

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Optometry was chosen as this year's Spirit Award winner which will provide them with the honor of creating next year's video.

"The opportunity to compete in this event against the best and the brightest students from around the country was an exciting honor," said Ian McWherter, this year's Varilux Optometry Student Bowl champion. "I can't wait to bring the crystal Student Bowl trophy home and share bragging rights with my fellow Pennsylvania College of Optometry students."

"For twenty years, we have had the privilege of offering optometry students the opportunity to compete with their peers while having fun and putting their knowledge into practice," said Rod Tahrán, O.D., F.A.A.O., vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs for Essilor of America. "Essilor is proud to support events such as the Varilux Optometry Student Bowl as part of our continued dedication to eyecare professionals and the future of optometry."

This year's very prestigious panel of judges included:

- Lead Judge - Dr. Linda Casser, Dean, Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University
- Dr. Ron Hopping, Vice-president, American Optometric Association
- Dr. Karla Zadnik, President, American Academy of Optometry and Associate Dean at the Ohio State University College of Optometry
- Dr. David Loshin, Dean, NOVA Southeastern College of Optometry
- Dr. Fraser Horn, Assistant Professor at Pacific University College of Optometry

The Varilux Optometry Student Bowl has been coordinated since its inception by Danne Ventura, F.A.A.O., director, professional relations, Essilor of America. This year's event was hosted by David Seibel, O.D., a private practitioner in St. Louis. He is past chair, Cornea and Contact Lens Section of AOA, a diplomat in the AAO, was awarded the AOSA Founders Award in 2005 and AOA Young Optometrist of the Year in 1996.

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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[®], Crizal[®], Thin&Lite[®], Xperio[®] and DEFINITY[®] 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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