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**ESSILOR AND THE AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC FOUNDATION TO AWARD  
OPTICAL TECHNOLOGY GRANTS**

*Three Schools to Receive Grants for Commitment to Industry Advancement*

**DALLAS – (August 8, 2011)** – Essilor of America has once again partnered with the American Optometric Foundation (AOF) to continue the Essilor Optical Technology Grants program, now in its tenth year. The program will award three \$20,000 grants to optometry schools for projects intended to elevate the standards and visibility of ophthalmic dispensing to students and patients in the training environment.

In 1,000 words or less, applicants must state how the grant could be used to further their educational program. All applications will be judged on the school's commitment to the growth of premium optical technology, ingenuity, as well as how the funding will enable the school to elevate the standards and visibility of ophthalmic dispensing for students and patients.

“We are proud to partner with AOF to continue this exceptional program as a part of our commitment to provide optometry students with assistance to help them excel in their future careers,” said Rod Tahrán, O.D., F.A.A.O., vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs for Essilor of America. “Essilor’s Optical Technology Grants program is only a small part of Essilor’s ongoing commitment to optometric education and the optometric profession, but also an important one.”

A five-member review panel, including one representative from Essilor, convened by the American Optometric Foundation, will judge the applications. The grant recipients will be announced on Oct. 15, 2011 at the AOF Celebration Luncheon during the American Academy of Optometry’s Annual Meeting in Boston.

Applications must be submitted by email to [aof@aaoptom.org](mailto:aof@aaoptom.org). Each school or college of optometry can submit one application, which must be endorsed by the dean or president of the

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school or college. The application must include contact information for the institution and responsible individual. The deadline for applications is Sept. 2, 2011.

To be considered for future technology grants, recipients must also submit a written 500 word progress report by June 30, 2012. The Essilor Optical Technology Grant program is intended for North American Institutions. No institution will receive a grant two years in a row.

For more details, visit the Essilor Optical Technology Grants Web page at

<http://www.aaopt.org/aof/scholarship/essilor> or email [aof@aaoptom.org](mailto:aof@aaoptom.org).

### **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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