



## News & Information

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **ESSILOR TO AWARD SCHOOLS WITH 2008 OPTICAL TECHNOLOGY GRANTS**

*Three grants to be awarded for commitment to advancement in the industry*

**DALLAS** – (August 22, 2008) – Essilor of America, Inc. announced today that they began accepting applications for the 2008 Essilor Optical Technology Grants – three \$20,000 grants to be awarded to schools and colleges of optometry that exhibit their commitment to growing the industry through new advancements. This is the 7<sup>th</sup> year that Essilor is offering these grants. Recipients will be announced at the American Academy of Optometry Meeting in October, 2008.

Applicants must submit an essay of 1,000 words or less describing why the prospective school needs and deserves the grant. All applications will be judged on the school's commitment to the growth of premium optical technology, as well as how the funding will enable the school to elevate the standards and visibility of ophthalmic dispensing for students and patients.

“Essilor has awarded over \$350,000 during the last six years to institutions that have consistently shown a commitment to the optical industry, and we are excited to continue to honor schools for their outstanding contributions,” said Howard Purcell, O.D., vice president of customer development for Essilor. “We are proud to continue our support of the next generation of eyecare professionals.”

Interested institutions can obtain applications by writing Danne Ventura at [dventura@essilorusa.com](mailto:dventura@essilorusa.com). All applications must be signed by an accompanying letter from the prospective school dean or president, and only one application per school may be submitted. Completed applications should be sent to the attention of Danne Ventura by e-mail or by mail at Essilor Lenses, 13555 North Stemmons Freeway, Dallas, TX 75234.

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The deadline to submit an application electronically, on CD-ROM or by e-mail, is October 1, 2008. To be considered for future Technology Grants, recipients must submit a written progress report by June 30, 2009.

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 8,500 people throughout North America. Essilor manufactures optical lenses under the Varilux®, Crizal®, DEFINITY® Thin&Lite®, 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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