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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 – (Aug. 20, 2009)** – Essilor of America, Inc. announces that it has partnered with the American Optometric Foundation (AOF) to continue the Essilor Optical Technology Grants program, now in its eighth year. The program will award three \$20,000 grants to schools and colleges of optometry that exhibit their commitment to growing the industry through new advancements.

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, as well as how the funding will enable the school to elevate the standards and visibility of ophthalmic dispensing for students and patients.

“Essilor is proud to partner with AOF to continue to support the next generation of eyecare professionals,” said Rod Tahrán, O.D., F.A.A.O., vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs for Essilor of America. “During the last seven years, these grants have enabled institutions to enhance their educational programs, and we are pleased to contribute to these important advancements.”

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 in the fall of 2009.

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. 1, 2009.

To be considered for future Technology Grants, recipients must submit a written progress report by June 30, 2010. 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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