



6110 Executive Blvd, Suite 506  
Rockville, MD 20852  
www.aaopt.org/AOF

13555 North Stemmons Freeway  
Dallas, Texas 75234  
1-800-Essilor

**For further information, contact:**

Tracy Kitts, Coordinator  
American Optometric Foundation  
(301) 984-4734  
TracyK@aaoptom.org

Kristan Willingham  
Essilor of America  
214.496.4463  
kristan.willingham@essilorusa.com

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**AMERICAN OPTOMETRIC FOUNDATION, ESSILOR OF AMERICA ANNOUNCE  
2011 TECHNOLOGY GRANT RECIPIENTS AT ACADEMY BOSTON**

**Rockville, MD – (December 2, 2011)** –The American Optometric Foundation (AOF) along with Essilor of America, Inc., the leading manufacturer of ophthalmic lenses, has announced the 2011 recipients of the Essilor Technology Grants; now in its tenth year. The announcement was made at the Foundation's Annual Celebration Luncheon on October 15<sup>th</sup> during Academy Boston. Three \$20,000 grants were awarded to optometry institutions for projects intended to elevate the standards and visibility of ophthalmic dispensing to students and patients in the training environment.

The 2011 recipients are:

- **State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry, New York, NY**
- **University of California Berkeley School of Optometry, Berkeley, CA**
- **The Ohio State University College of Optometry, Columbus, OH**

AOF President, Catherine Amos, commented “we are delighted to have a productive ongoing relationship with Essilor. We share their goals of enhancing optometric education and improving patient care.”

The American Optometric Foundation is committed to improving the visual welfare of the public by fostering advances in education and research. A leading organization in optometric education, the AOF provides assistance and encouragement to students who plan on pursuing a career in visual health and promotes healthy relationships within and among organizations that share a common goal.

“Essilor is proud to support the next generation of eyecare professionals through its long-standing partnership with the AOF,” said Rod Tahran, O.D., F.A.A.O., vice president of professional relations and clinical affairs for Essilor of America, who presented the awards at the luncheon “Since the program began ten years ago, these grants have enabled schools of optometry to make significant advancements their educational programs, ultimately benefitting the entire vision community”

**About AOF**

*The American Optometric Foundation is a philanthropic organization devoted to the advancement of optometric education and research, administering over \$400,000 per year in scholarships, fellowships, and research grants. The AOF is an affiliate of the American Academy of Optometry.*

**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>, Xperio<sup>®</sup>, DEFINITY<sup>®</sup>, Thin&Lite<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, a publicly held company traded on the Euronext Paris stock exchange (Reuters: ESSI.PA).*

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