

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: Greg Houle
SUNY College
212-938-5607
ghoule@sunyopt.edu

**STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY ACCEPTS
\$250,000 GIFT FROM ESSILOR**
Donation to Support State-of-the-Art Laboratory

NEW YORK, NY – March 28, 2014 - The State University of New York College of Optometry announced today at Vision Expo East a \$250,000 gift from Essilor of America, the world's leading provider of eyeglass lenses. In recognition for the gift, SUNY will name its dispensary the "Essilor Eyewear Center."

"On behalf of the entire SUNY Optometry community, I would like to express my great appreciation to Essilor for the generosity and significant support to our students, faculty and patients that they are providing through their gift," said David Heath, OD, EdM, president of the State University of New York College of Optometry. "As a result, we will be able to continue to enhance the education of our students, as well as continue to improve our patient care experience and facilitate the operation of our dispensing service."

As part of the gift, which is being made over a period of five years, Essilor is providing SUNY's optical lens fabricating laboratory with a new optical lens edger. Through this in-kind donation, as well as cash contributions, SUNY will help to ensure that its dispensary remains an innovative, state-of-the-art facility for both its students at the College and its patients in the University Eye Center.

"The future of optometry is important to Essilor, and through this contribution we are pleased to support SUNY and its efforts to train students in a modern, high-tech facility," said Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO, and senior vice president of customer development, Essilor of America. "We are honored to be associated with SUNY and the work they do to provide students with the latest, most innovative equipment as they gain a hands-on learning experience in preparation for their optometric careers."

SUNY Optometry is currently in a five-year, \$10 million fundraising campaign called *The Vision and the Promise* designed to support the College's education, patient care, research and community health care initiatives.

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About the State University of New York College of Optometry

Founded in 1971, the State University of New York College of Optometry is a public, fully accredited, four-year professional college of optometry and vision science. Located in New York City, the College is a leader in the education of optometrists, research in vision science and comprehensive patient care. The institution includes the University Eye Center, one of the largest eye and vision care clinics in the country. For more information visit www.sunyopt.edu

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[®], XPERIO[®], DEFINITY[®], THIN&LITE[®] and other Essilor brand names. Essilor Laboratories of America, Inc 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](http://www.essilopa.com)).