



For Immediate Release  
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### **Former Salus University Provost Earns Lifetime Achievement Award**



*Janice E. Scharre, OD, MA, FAAO, former Salus University provost, has been recognized by the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO) for exceptional contributions to optometric education.*

**Elkins Park, Pa.** — Former Salus University Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, Janice E. Scharre, OD, MA, FAAO, of Annandale, Va., recently added another award to her long list of accolades. The first female appointed as dean of an optometry school is now the first

woman to receive the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).

Dr. Scharre received the award during ASCO's Annual Business Meeting June 24, which was hosted virtually due to the coronavirus pandemic. The award recognizes an outstanding individual for unique and exceptional accomplishments and contributions to both ASCO and optometric education.

"I am honored to be the 2020 recipient of ASCO's Lifetime Achievement Award," Dr. Scharre said. "I have had the opportunity to work with gifted faculty and dedicated administrators on behalf of students and patients throughout my career. I have been blessed with supportive mentors and colleagues in my work. My accomplishments are a reflection of those who have supported and guided me throughout my career. It is humbling to me to be recognized from my peers in this way."

Previously a dean at the Illinois College of Optometry (ICO), Dr. Scharre joined Salus as a consultant in 2012 to design and develop the Accelerated Scholars Program for the University's Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) Doctor of Optometry degree and prepare it for preliminary accreditation approval. The Accelerated Scholars Program was the first of its kind in the country and is highly selective, offering enrolled students the opportunity to earn the credit equivalency of a traditional four-year program in just three years. She also developed some of the academic standards and policies for the University's Department of International and Continuing Education.

A firm believer in the collaborative education model, Dr. Scharre was named provost and vice president of Academic Affairs at Salus in 2014. Working to build on the model's widely regarded strength in clinical training, she retired from the University in 2018 after serving optometric education and the profession for more than 43 years.

"Dr. Scharre provided extraordinary academic leadership to Salus during a time of great institutional change and challenges," Salus President Michael H. Mittelman, OD, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE, said. "Thanks to her professional insights, knowledge and leadership, not only did Salus successfully add our Speech-Language Pathology program but also obtained full re-accreditation of our Physician Assistant and Optometry programs, in addition to earning accreditation with commendation from the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the University's overall accreditor. Dr. Scharre also was a great mentor to me as I began my tenure at Salus."

The Lifetime Achievement Award is the latest validation of Dr. Scharre's decades-long dedication to providing optometric education to others. Dr. Scharre received another ASCO honor, winning the Dr. Jack Bennett Innovation in Optometric Education Award in 2007. In the same year, she also received the Inaugural Dr. Joseph L. Henry Achievement Award from her alma mater ICO. Additionally, in 2005, she was named one of the "50 Most Influential Women in Optical" by Vision Monday Magazine.

Dr. Scharre began her career as a student scholar and pre-med graduate of Northern Illinois University in DeKalb, Ill., in 1972.

### **About Salus University**

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide

range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Public Health, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, and speech-language pathology services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit [www.salus.edu](http://www.salus.edu).