



America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses Sole Sponsor of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry's Summer Enrichment Program to Increase Representation from Students of Color in Optometry

The Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University announced today that America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses will be the sole sponsor of PCO's Summer Enrichment Program (SEP) with its vision to increase underrepresented students of color in the optometric profession.

Totaling \$300,000 through a five-year commitment, it is the largest sponsorship Salus has received, to date, in support of its diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives. Originally founded in 1977 by Robert E. Horne, then vice president and dean of Student Affairs, SEP has benefited over 700 prior students. Renamed in his honor, SEP will be able to reach 100 new students thanks to the America's Best commitment.

"To fully achieve the level of diversity in Optometry that we all hope for requires that we overcome a variety of systemic obstacles. Salus' Summer Enrichment Program, founded by the legendary PCO Dean Robert E. Horne, played a pivotal trajectory setting role in the lives of many Optometrists of color practicing today," said National Vision CEO Reade Fahs. "There would be fewer minority Optometrists practicing today were it not for this program. National Vision's America's Best Contacts & Eyeglasses brand is proud to be reigniting this program and laying the groundwork required to increase the number of students, residents, faculty and practitioners of color in the optometric profession."

"We are thrilled to partner with National Vision and America's Best to provide opportunities for underrepresented minorities to obtain an optometric education," said Dr. Michael H. Mittelman, president of Salus. "Their generosity to underwrite our Robert E. Horne Summer Enrichment Program for five years, will not only help to diversify and enrich Salus, but also permit us to more directly serve those communities in which we live and work."

Past programs provided an invaluable experience for those who participated.

"I'm a product of summer program after summer program after summer program," said Essence Johnson, OD, PCO class of 2010, FAAO and Chief Visionary Officer for Black Eyecare Perspective. "If it wasn't for the exposure that I had in the Summer Enrichment Program and the pipeline created for me into the eye care industry, I wouldn't be the

wife, mother and entrepreneur practicing and preaching optometry to her community today.”

“The Summer Enrichment Program completely changed the trajectory of my life,” said Darryl E. Glover Jr., OD, PCO class of 2011 and Cofounder of Black Eyecare Perspective. “By allowing me the opportunity to learn with grace, I was able to understand the tools I would need in order to excel in optometry school. Having been a college student who worked a full-time job, I had previously not been able to reach my full potential as a student. The Summer Enrichment Program, led by Dean Horne, gave me the opportunity to fulfill my dream of attending optometry school.”

The redesigned program will feature three weeks of remote (online) instruction and two weeks of in-person instruction, coupled with peer interactions and faculty mentorship. It will be led by Ruth Shoge, OD, PCO Class of 2006 and Resident 2007, a previous SEP participant and faculty member. Dr. Shoge hopes to eventually expand the program beyond PCO into the University’s other colleges in order to help recruit more students of color into all the healthcare professions that Salus educates.

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, 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.

About National Vision Holdings, Inc.

National Vision Holdings, Inc. (NASDAQ: EYE) is one of the largest optical retail companies in the United States with over 1,200 stores in 44 states plus the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. With a mission of helping people by making quality eye care and eyewear more affordable and accessible, the company operates five retail brands: [America’s Best Contacts & Eyeglasses](#), [Eyeglass World](#), [Vision Centers](#) inside select Walmart stores, and Vista Optical inside select [Fred Meyer stores](#) and on select [military bases](#), and several e-commerce websites, offering a variety of products and services for customers’ eye care needs. For more information, please visit www.nationalvision.com.

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