



For Immediate Release

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The Eye Institute's Emphasis on Disability Accessibility in Healthcare

Elkins Park, P.a. - The Eye Institute (TEI) of Salus University's Disability and Accessibility clinic, previously the Special Populations Assessment and Rehabilitation Center (SPARC) program, has been advancing the University's emphasis on accessibility in healthcare and healthcare education.

TEI's clinic provides eye exams to patients with any type of sensory disability such as deafness or blindness as well as developmental and behavioral disabilities including autism, dementia and all mental health disorders.

The optometrists in this service use equipment which allows them to do a more complete eye exam on a patient who may not be fully cooperative with normal exam methods - patients who have a hard time sitting still or a hard time following instruction. There are also wheelchair-accessible exam rooms; anxiety blankets so the patients can feel more comfortable; tools to take visual acuities for non-verbal individuals and glasses can be prescribed with a spot autorefractor and/or hand-held lens racks.

"This clinic is important to have because patients with disabilities unfortunately often have a higher prevalence of ocular disease, whether it by high myopia, strabismus, amblyopia, or glaucoma," said **Nicholas Karbach, OD '17, Resident '18**, primary care doctor at The Eye Institute and the Disability and Accessibility clinic. "It's important that these patients not only have routine eye exams, but they also have a place where they can go when they do have ocular disease or complications and they're able to be managed appropriately."

The clinic also provides Salus University Doctor of Optometry students with the opportunity to work with a diverse patient population, reinforcing Salus University's mission to advance integrated healthcare through innovative education, research and clinical services.

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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, Speech-Language Pathology and Orthotics and Prosthetics. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, speech-language pathology and occupational therapy services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.