



NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

SPRING 2018

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

Special points of interest:

- *President's Message*
- *HCC Service Learning*
- *Ogeechee Tech College Bowl Victory*
- *Moorpark Community College*

A Word from our President

Our fall meeting at Disneyworld, Lake Buena Vista, Florida was a tremendous success with 24 NFOS faculty attending the meeting. It was great to see many new and old faces for the first time at the meeting. Once again, the NFOS faculty played a major role in providing education to attendees at the convention. Many faculty presented both basic and advanced review courses for the ABO and NCLE. In addition, our hands on courses included lensometry, frame adjusting and eye dissections. It is my understanding that many of these courses were well received by the attendees.

This year our NFOS College Bowl was a very exciting event. For the first time in the history of the NFOS College Bowl, there was a three way tie at the end. Moses Nawlo from City Tech, Kevin Christian from Hillsborough Community College and Brandi Irby from Ogeechee Technical College were the finalists. In the end it was Brandi Irby who prevailed. Our congratulations to all the contestants especially Brandi for an outstanding job well done. All of our students made us proud.

Inside this issue:

Remote Area Medical with Roane State and Reynolds CC

Middlesex CC Children's Eyecare Outreach

COA Update/Welcome Lanard Atkins

On Thursday, October 5, the NFOS had their meeting after lunch. As an update to the meeting, I took a few minutes to remember Dr. Floyd Holmgran who passed away over the summer. Dr. Holmgran was instrumental in working with the National Academy and guiding the Commission on Opticianry Education during their early years of its existence. Moorpark Community College in California under Ruby Garcia will admit their first class in January, 2018. I would also like to extend best wishes to Ray Dennis from Middlesex Community College and Patrick Goughary from Camden County College on their recent retirements. Their experience and input will be missed. I would also like to congratulate Lisa Griffin, a graduate of Hillsborough Community College who was just hired as a full-time opticianry instructor at Wiregrass Community College in Georgia. I know that our NFOS family will be more than happy to help Lisa out with any materials that she might need. I look forward to the program joining the NFOS.

Unfortunately, Seattle Central Community College and TCI in New York City closed their doors. City Tech is working with TCI students to transfer them into our program. Washington State is working with the NFOS and their state society on opening another new school. I will give updates as more information becomes available. Some good news is that Wiregrass Technical College in Georgia recently joined the NFOS and as mentioned above, Lisa Griffin is the new program director. Moorpark Community College in California has submitted their papers and the program is now under review for NFOS membership.

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

A Word from our President (continued)

One agenda item at the meeting that was discussed and debated at length was the NAOO initiative with the NFOS in regard to reviewing and certifying their training programs. I sent the initiative out as an attachment prior to the convention. After a lengthy discussion, the NFOS membership voted unanimously not to accept the proposal. In the end, many members decided that the initiative was not within the mission statement of the NFOS. More information about the vote and comments will be described in the upcoming minutes at our next meeting. As President of the NFOS, I would like to see the NAOO partner with the NFOS regarding development of new schools in states where opticians are desperately needed.

On February 8-10, 2018, the OAA Leadership Conference took place in Charleston, SC. The NFOS was an active participant and we had 17 faculty from various NFOS schools in attendance. In addition, Maryann Santos from Goodwin College and myself gave a breakout session regarding starting a new program. Maryann, as a new program director gave her insight of how the process works and gave attendees her opinion of what she had to do to get her program started. The session was very well received with many questions from the audience.

On a high note, Jim Morris, Executive Director from the ABO-NCLE visited our meeting. I am glad to announce that with all the hard work that the NFOS has provided to OptiCon, the ABO-NCLE will be donating \$110,000 a year to the NFOS so that we can continue with our initiatives helping state societies start new schools around the country and participate in future Vision Expo East and West programs by providing ABO and NCLE Basic and Advanced Review courses. In addition, in 2019 the NFOS will provide workshops for opticians along with having our fall meeting at Vision Expo West. Plans are to have the NFOS College Bowl every spring at Vision Expo East. As a reminder, for those faculty that are interested in lecturing, I sent out a speaker application and copies of various workshop courses that will be offered at future Vision Expo East and West conferences. I will resend within the next month for those faculty that did not receive my first email. Also, I announced at the meeting that the NFOS is in the process of developing a new website. Details to follow and schools will have to verify if their college website links are accurate. All schools will have the ability to add new information to their webpage. Directions will be sent at a future date.

In closing, this is an exciting time for the NFOS. In the future, I am extending an invitation to all schools to participate and hopefully attend our future meetings. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their school semester and if anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at rrusso9117@aol.com.

Best,

Bob Russo

Ogeechee Technical College

Deborah DeLoach, Program Director

Opticianry

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Statesboro, GA 30458



Brandi Irby flanked by Deborah DeLoach, Program Director (left), Dianne Ventura, Essilor of America (left), Scott Lloyd, (right) faculty member, Ogeechee Tech and Professor Robert J. Russo, President, NFOS (right)

Brandi Irby, a graduate from OgeecheeTech, walked away with the \$500 first prize in the National Federation of Opticianry (NFOS) Schools College Bowl. This was first time in the history of the NFOS College Bowl, that there was a three way tie at the end. Moses Nawlo from City Tech, Kevin Christian from Hillsborough Community College and Brandi Irby from Ogeechee Technical College were the finalists. The competition was held on October 7, 2017 at the OptiCon Conference in Disney World, Lake Buena Vista, Florida. Sponsored by Essilor of America, the event is modeled on the television show "Jeopardy" and features questions in anatomy and physiology, ophthalmic dispensing, ophthalmic fabrication, contact lenses and optics.



HILLSBOROUGH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
SERVICE LEARNING THROUGH THE EYES OF A STUDENT!



The Team of iCARE Jamaica 2017

I was extremely blessed to travel to Jamaica with Great Shape! Inc. to work with their vision care clinic in September 2017. My name is Bria Thatcher and I am a second-year Opticianry student with Hillsborough Community College located in Tampa, Florida. This was my first time traveling and volunteering with Great Shape! Inc. I was fortunate to have learned about this trip during my first semester at school and was captivated by the stories that my instructors brought back and shared during their classes and knew that I had to come and experience this for myself.

From the very beginning, partnering with Great Shape! was tremendously easy for someone who has never done this before. Submitting documents, traveling with my group, checking into the hotel, and traveling throughout Jamaica went very smoothly. I loved every moment of this experience. From the arrival in Montego Bay to the clinic which was always friendly, happy, and caring. I not only walked away from this trip with a reborn appreciation for what I do but also new friends, mentors, and role models. I am already eagerly awaiting next year so that I may come again!



Duncan's Methodist Church, Trelawny, Jamaica

A few things that deeply impacted me during this trip was the first-hand experience at seeing the various eye conditions and diseases and being able to put into practice elements of my trade that this greatly impacted the Jamaican people we served. This entire experience showed me things that I would not have easily experienced in the States.



The Dispensing Team – One Love

It also was also very fulfilling to be challenged in the dispensing world. When I met a new patient, I would immediately begin to analyze their prescription and the different options available to the patient (one multifocal pair versus two pairs, one for distance and another for reading). For most patients we did not have the exact prescription, unless we were able to custom make their glasses with the edging equipment brought on the trip, and so we were required to calculate and search for glasses with a similar spherical equivalent as what was prescribed by the doctor. It required quick and accurate thinking, problem solving, and patience.

Physically being able to see pterygiums, arcus senilis, tropias, phorias, keratoconus, and many other conditions on an everyday basis brought them to life. Since learning about these conditions within the past year, it was not until this trip that it fully resonated with me that these conditions are real and that if not addressed quickly can lead to permanent vision loss or damage. It was great to be able to give every patient a pair of sunglasses and to educate them on the importance of wearing them so that the patient is not exposed to the same amount of UV as if they were unprotected.



The Lab Team – Edging Custom Glasses Orders



Dispensing to Patients

It was an absolute joy and honor to serve the Jamaican people. Each person was compliant, understanding, and grateful for our service to their country. It was a humbling experience to arrive to the site each morning to find hundreds of



people waiting outside the door in their “Sunday Best.” Some people arrived at the church as early as 5:30 in the morning just to wait in line for us to see them, and some walked a few miles to wait in the heat or rain until we could get them inside the church and begin the examination process. Each day, I received hugs and thanks for all the work we did for them.

Day 1 – the people waiting outside the church for us to arrive

A few patients that I had the honor of helping included a 75-year-old woman who walked one mile to the clinic site. I dispensed her very first glasses to her. As she left, she asked me to stay sweet and thanked me many times for the service we provided to her country. I also helped a 96-year-old woman who had complained that everything was “all dark,” we dispensed a pair of glasses that was her spherical equivalent to what the doctor prescribed and her facial expression brightened immediately when she put on the glasses. While working the sunglass station, I dispensed a pair of Oakley polarized sunglasses and told the man that he looked like a movie star, he responded with “if you come back to Jamaica and we meet again, we will be married.”



Ginny with a patient after putting glasses on her for the first time



Four-Year-Old & Me after his Visual Acuity Test

There was a four-year-old boy that I had the privilege to help with his visual acuity test. He did not know his letters yet (and was a little shy) so we showed him how to point at which way the “E” was pointing. He let me hold the occluder up to his eyes and did a fantastic job with the test. He did not need “test glasses” and was able to leave the clinic with an awesome pair of sunglasses.

There was a 16-year-old boy who I helped initially in visual acuity when he shared with that his current glasses were broken. Not only did I replace his broken frame with a new one, but I was also able to find and give him three additional pairs in his prescription. He was so excited that he asked to bring his mother in to show her his new glasses. Before he left, he asked to get a picture with me. It was a true honor and joy to serve this young man.



The 16-Year-Old & Me after he received all his glasses and sunglasses!



That's me, a patient, and Mackenzie after dispensing her first pair

As much as this trip has impacted and changed the lives of almost 1,600 Jamaicans, this trip has changed my life. I know that the skills and experience that I learned in these five days have impacted me forever. This trip has made me a better Optician and person. I came away from this trip with more humility, care, and attention for each patient, a full heart, and a true love for this amazing field. Thank you to my teachers at Hillsborough Community College for introducing me to this trip through your stories and your passion for helping the Jamaicans. Thank you to Steven Stern at Great Shape!, Inc. for being a fabulous director and everyone else involved in planning this. Thank you to everyone who volunteered for being a truly humble and fantastic team. I am truly honored to connect with you all and share in this experience. I cannot wait to come on this trip again!!



Exciting news from Instructor

Ruby Garcia

Moorpark Community College

Moorpark Community College is opening their first semester, January 8, 2018.

You may have heard about the fires close by our community -- but we are still moving forward with the program.

Our community has been great at helping folks who lost their homes.

Just to let you know about Moorpark, we are experiencing great support from Ophthalmologists, the Board of Optometry doctors, America's Best, Vision Ease/Hilco and Zeiss Leaders are all coming at Guests Speakers. We feel fantastic support from Luxottica and Empire Lab where the students will work on the Clinical Study. Empire Lab employs over 100-employees and they are preparing to help students through 17-weeks of lab working experience.

This program has been a great start-up through the help of leaders like Mike Goggin, Bob Russo, Tracey Bennett have all provided us with excellent material for the courses.

Thank you, and we will keep you posted.

Ruby Garcia, ABOC, NCLEC State Licensed Optician

Instructor, Moorpark Community College



Ogeechee and Georgia Piedmont Technical College Program Directors and students visited the Georgia State Capital on February 20, 2018 to participate in the OAG Eyewear Tune-up. OAA President Bob Reynolds and OAG president Thomas Blair, along with Board of Directors Bob Yoe and Richard Mintz also took part in this event. In the OTC picture is Brandi Irby the 2018 National College winner, Ogeechee Technical College Program Director for Opticianry Deborah DeLoach and Junior Dallas Anderson.





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Vision Care Technology Program to open in Spring 2018

After 4 years of planning and breaking ground, City Tech, the only technical college in the CUNY system is about to open their new building in February 2018. The Department of Vision Care Technology is one of several health care departments at the college that will be moved to the new facility.





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City Tech Students visit Tri-Supreme Laboratory

In spring 2017, senior students from City Tech along with Student Optical Society advisor, Professor Joseph Sollecito visited Tri-Supreme Optical in Farmingdale, NY.

This was a great opportunity for students to visit and observe the behind the scenes operations regarding both traditional and digital surfacing at a wholesale laboratory. City Tech presently has two clinical courses where patients can receive complementary eye examinations and choose frames and lenses at a reduced cost. This service provides students with valuable experience working with real patients in a clinical setting. In addition, City Tech's clinic submits all of their work electronically via the DVI system. Under the direct supervision of a faculty member and Ms. Joanna Bettini, our clinical laboratory technician, clinical jobs by the students are not submitted until all measurements and calculations have been verified.





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Vision Screening and Service Learning at City Tech



Students in Vision Care Technology provide vision screenings for the college community as part of their service learning at City Tech. These screenings also provide potential patients for our clinic. As part of this initiative, Professor Kimberly Strickler, department chair, created a collaboration between first year and second year students as part of a mentoring program to assist new ophthalmic students to work with more experienced students to create peer-support for student success within the department.



Mentors are assigned mentees where mentees can shadow their mentors in the clinical process of the department and also assist in department vision screenings to the college community. This mentoring process is overseen by Professor Joseph Sollecito, Student Optical Society advisor, Mr. Peter Pineandi, college laboratory technician and Ms. Joanna Bettini, clinical manager.



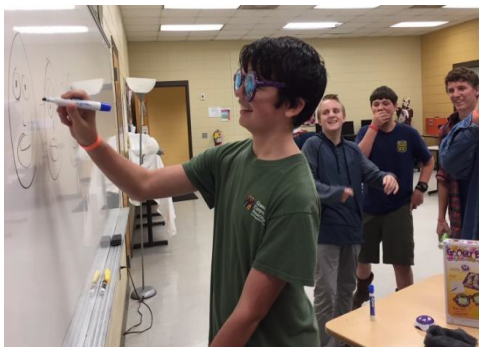
All Eyes on Get Wired!

Wiregrass Georgia Technical College located in South Georgia saved parents in the 11-county service area over \$3 million in tuition and fees thanks to the Dual Enrollment program. The college's program has been recognized among the top in the state in enrollment for Dual Enrollment. Recently the Valdosta Campus of Wiregrass Tech hosted around 900 middle and high school students for the college's Get Wired for Allied Health and Public Safety. The event allowed the middle and high school students to tour the classrooms and lab areas and engaged them in interactive activities lead by the college's faculty and college students. One of the programs featured was the college's Opticianry program.

Opticianry students Malory Gunter, Beckie Parrish, and Teresa Peterson conducted an "escape room." Students had to progress through several sequential tasks to make their escape including reassembling a 3D schematic eye, drawing eyeglasses on a whiteboard patient while wearing game glasses that impaired their own vision, and adjusting skewed eyeglass frames into bench alignment with the appropriate hand tools.

"I didn't give the Opticianry students much instruction – each task was theirs to facilitate as they wished. It was encouraging to hear them teaching the visiting students about the eyeball and describing to them how to properly adjust a pair of spectacles" said program coordinator Lisa Griffin.

Students appeared excited to learn about careers in health care and public safety while participating in several popular activities – Eye Escaped, Dress That Wound, Bling My Tooth, Clean My Trach, and more. The goal of the event is to the visiting students learn more about programs offered in their community and spark their interest in future careers choices.





Liliana Mejia Rodriquez shares news of Miami Dade Community College participation with Professional Opticians of Florida

With the support of the National Federation of Schools the MDC Opticianry Program participated with the state organization, Professional Opticians of Florida, to help provide continuing education to Licensed Opticians. Our very own Dr. Latimore, adjunct professor for over 20 years, provided over eight hours of lectures. We also had a booth where our alumni gathered to have a little fun.

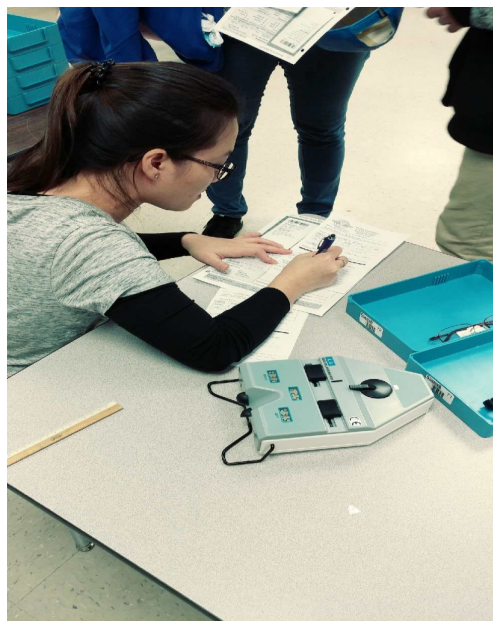




Reynolds Community College Opticianry Program Director Richard McCoy reports on student, faculty and alumni involve- ment with

Remote Area Medical

Remote Area Medical (RAM) was founded by Stan Brock in 1985 and is committed to providing health services and support at no charge to patients. Their standard of service combines high quality healthcare with compassion and cooperation from our supporters, partners, and practitioners. RAM of Virginia is an affiliate of RAM and holds several clinics each year to address the state's unwavering problems with health care access. Vicki Weiss, OD is the president of RAM-VA and leads the vision team. Reynolds faculty, graduates and students first became aware of RAM and got involved in 2011. At the clinics the students participate in frame selection, measurements, fitting and adjusting, and on site manufacturing in the mobile lab. Along with volunteering during the clinics throughout the year, all jobs that have to be made off site are run through our program for completion. Students final inspect all eyewear going out and occasionally are able to help with dispensing during eyewear delivery dates at regions that are closer to campus. RAM-VA had 8 regional clinics this year with great participation from our students and alumni led by RAM team lead Kristi Green. We are so proud of their willingness and dedication to serve others. They are exceptional examples for us all.





Roane State just got our student optical long sleeve shirts. Ashley Smith, one of our 1st year students, is modeling one.

Our star student Hannah McDaniel went to the OAA meeting this Feb. She said she really learned a lot and has since started involvement getting students more active in our state association. And this year in Feb our second year students spent a day providing free vision care at Remote Area Medical on the 900th RAMclinic based in Knoxville.

Becca



Middlesex Community College Children's Eyecare Outreach

by Ray Dennis

The students of the Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing program at Middlesex Community College in Connecticut have been fabricating hundreds of pairs of finished reading glasses for several upcoming optical mission trips. This is part of an ongoing program called Middlesex Community College (MxCC) Children's Eyecare Outreach. In March, two of the second year students will accompany Professor Emeritus, Ray Dennis on a trip to the Osa Peninsula region of Costa Rica for a weeklong trip during Spring Break Week during which they will do vision screenings on about 500 schoolchildren. Students identified as having vision ametropias will be referred to local eyecare providers for comprehensive exams and corrections if needed.

Later in the spring, a two additional students will accompany Professor Dennis to Riobamba, Ecuador where they will assist in performing eye exams and providing eyeglasses to members of the local indigenous community in the adjoining villages of the Andes mountains. Riobamba is a city that sits nearly two miles above sea level and almost right on the equator that has a 20,000-foot volcano called Chimborazo at its edge. They will work with a team consisting of ophthalmologists, an optometrist and several other local healthcare providers. The team will likely identify patients in need of cataract or other types of ocular surgery, and if so identified, the patients will be provided by a team of ophthalmic surgeons from Vision Health International, a U.S. based organization that provides eyecare throughout Latin America as well as in the U.S. that will visit Riobamba several weeks later,

In early June two more students will join a team of 32 eyecare professionals at the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota for a new program called "Native Eyes". This program is a cooperative effort of several groups including Lions International, Vision Health International (VHI), A Promise to Peru and the Connecticut based Artists for World Peace (AFWP). We anticipate doing exams on over a thousand patients over the period of a week and will provide free eyeglasses to any that need them.

These programs provide opportunities for all of our students to "give back" to those in need both locally and internationally. Whether the members of the graduating class actually participate on the trips or help by making the hundreds of pairs of glasses that we take along and dispense on site, they have all played a role in our community service efforts.





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SUNY Erie's Vision Care Technology welcomes new Center for STEM Studies to North Campus

WILLIAMSVILLE, N.Y.—Starting this Spring 2018 semester, SUNY Erie Community College's Vision Care Technology students are now earning significant portions of their professional training inside the College's new \$30-million Center for STEM Studies on its North Campus.

The state-, county- and SUNY Erie-funded project—officially opened in mid-January—provides approximately 57,000 square feet of new facility space for labs, prep rooms and support spaces for the College's Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Engineering Science programs, as well as LEED Silver-certified shared instructional spaces, collaborative study spaces, a tutoring center and faculty offices.

With such growing professional corridors as the growing Buffalo Niagara Medical Campus and other healthcare sectors requiring a workforce with science, technology, engineering, and math-related training and degrees, SUNY Erie's development couldn't come at a more advantageous time for the region and its residents.

And for those students looking to train inside SUNY Erie's nationally lauded Vision Care Technology Program, the new facility will provide the type of state-of-the-art equipment and lab space necessary for technology-aided optics courses necessary to train and thrive in the field.

Since 1946, SUNY Erie Community College has met the needs of a diverse student body while contributing to the economic vitality of Western New York. As a member of the state's SUNY system, the three-campus college provides innovative, affordable and accessible educational programs in an accommodating academic environment. Equipped with the knowledge of these programs, SUNY Erie's faculty, staff and students strive to enrich their host communities through skill, service and partnership. For more information, visit www.ecc.edu or call (716) 851-1ECC.

Faculty Spotlight from SUNY Erie Community College

Featuring Assistant Professor Janet Acara

Assistant Professor Janet Acara has recently returned from the ABO-NCLE winter board meeting in Phoenix. Janet is our NFOS representative on the NCLE Board. She also traveled to Charleston, SC to attend the NFOS meeting held during the Opticians Association of America's Leadership meeting. Janet is a member of the Fellow committee of the Contact Lens Society of America. She encourages her students to become active in professional societies and looks forward to the day an SUNY Erie student achieves Fellow Status with the Contact Lens Society of America.





The Commission on Opticianry Accreditation met in Opticon for their fall meeting. Minor changes were made to update the *ESSENTIALS OF AN ACCREDITED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM FOR OPTICIANRY*. The new Essentials can be found on the COA website. Upon request – I can email the update complete with highlighted changes.

For Program Directors of accredited programs, the Commissioners voted to increase the annual fee by 1% for the next 3 years.

Debbie White, Director of Accreditation.

COA Appoints New Commissioner Lanard Atkins



Lanard C. Atkins, LDO

Opticianry Program Director
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Lanard C. Atkins is the Opticianry program director at Georgia Piedmont Technical College, where he reestablished a program that was closed for 2 years. Before becoming an instructor at GPTC he was a graduate of the Opticianry program as well. He has extensive experience as a Licensed Dispensing Optician where he gained a considerable amount of knowledge that prepared him for a career as an educator. He has established partnerships with professionals in the field and often invite these potential employers into the classroom to talk to students and give them a realistic view of their future as practicing opticians. These candid classroom discussions have proven invaluable as the students learn, not only, the importance of their coursework, but the importance of being a professional. Many students fail to accomplish their professional goals once they leave the classroom not due to their lack of technical ability in their field of choice, but due to need for professional development. These conversations with industry professionals in the classroom help reinforce the importance of students' coursework.



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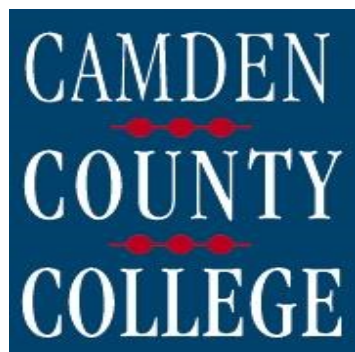


SHAMIR

NFOS Schools



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DURHAM TECH



Student Spotlight...

Sarah Letsinger, opticianry student
Roane State Community College



Thank you to our NFOS Friends and Sponsors. Your support enables the NFOS to continue our mission of promoting formal opticianry education for the entire profession.



We Teach the Why!