

FALL 2019



NFOS SCHOOL NEWS

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

A Word from our President

There is an old saying that all good things must come to an end and with that statement, this will be my last NFOS newsletter as your President. After 6 years as President, a lot of great things have occurred for the NFOS. In addition, I am excited that we have many new faces participating with the NFOS and our future looks brighter than ever. That doesn't mean there won't be future challenges for formal education, but I am excited by the enthusiasm of many of the new faces that are now part of the NFOS family. I hope that in the near future, there will be more representation from other schools around the country. It has been a pleasure serving as your President for the last six years and I enjoyed working with everyone at the NFOS. Rest assured, I will still be involved as past president and still remain on the executive board of the NFOS. I am looking forward to working with the new leadership in 2020.

Our fall meeting at Vision Expo West was well attended with 23 NFOS faculty present at the meeting. It was great to see many old and new faces. Once again, the response of our NFOS review courses and workshops and Vision Expo West were a great success taught by our NFOS faculty.

As a reminder in 2020, general elections for NFOS President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer will take place at our spring meeting. At our fall meeting at Vision Expo West, the NFOS established a nominating committee and they will be reaching out to those members who have shown interest in running for NFOS officers. The nominating committee consists of Thomas Neff, Rebecca Soto and Janet Acara. In addition, Rebecca Soto will chair the NFOS college bowl committee for our upcoming meeting at Vision Expo East in 2020. Thomas Neff has agreed to be the new student liaison for the NFOS College Bowl. Anyone who would like to assist Rebecca in the question writing content, should contact her directly at rsoto@goodwin.edu

At our meeting at Vision Expo West, the NFOS presented Professor Bill Underwood with a retirement plaque for all his dedicated service to the NFOS and the ophthalmic industry.

During the meeting, we had guest speakers, Cheri Guy, Hoya Vision Care and Judy Lew, Essilor USA. Both companies donated \$5,000 each to the NFOS. A sincere thanks to both companies for supporting the NFOS and formal education.

This is an exciting time for the NFOS. Some of our goals for the future will be to increase school membership nationally and eventually offer a professional development weekend for those new faculty, program directors and state society members who wish to start a school in their state and learn about the world of academia and program development.

In closing, I am extending an invitation to all NFOS faculty, both full-time and part-time to participate and hopefully attend our future meetings. I hope everyone enjoys the rest of their school semester and I will be sending out an announcement shortly regarding our spring meeting at the OAA Leadership conference. If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at information@nfos.org.

I hope to see everyone at OAA Leadership.

Best,

Bob

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- *President's Message*
- *Vision Expo West*
- *Professor Russo Retires From Teaching At CityTech After 44 Years*
- *SUNY Erie Hosts NYSSO*

Inside this issue:

Lanard C. Atkins receives faculty member of the month

Bryan Goh has been selected by Middlesex Community College in CT as a Full time faculty member

Goodwin College's 5th Annual Paint Night

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF OPTICIANRY SCHOOLS

NFOS Meeting at Vision Expo West

NFOS Honors Dr. Bill Underwood



At our meeting at Vision Expo West, Randy Smith from ABO-NCLE and long time member of the NFOS, presented Dr. Bill Underwood with a well deserved retirement plaque. Randy, a long time colleague of Bill's made the presentation to Bill for his years of dedicated service to both the NFOS and formal opticianry education. I'm sure everyone in the NFOS and the ophthalmic community wishes Bill a much deserved retirement. As President of the NFOS, I want to wish Bill continued success in his future endeavors.

NFOS Meeting at Vision Expo West



(Left to right) Kristi Green, Past President, Leah Exline, Doug Pelky, Sheri Redshirt, Brian Thomas, Scott Helkaa, Laurie Pierce



(Left to right) Mary Seguiti, Brian Goh, Joe Sollecito, Aarlan Aceto, Thomas Neff, Janet Alsbaugh, Roy Ferguson, Liliana Rodriguez, Rebecca Soto, Steven Indelicato, Janet Acara and Patty Estrada



(Left to Right) Steven Indelicato, Janet Acara, Patty Estrada, President Bob Russo, Kristi Green, Leah Exline, and Doug Pelky



(Left to right) Leah Exline, Laurie Pierce and Janet Acara

NFOS Faculty At Vision Expo West



NFOS faculty at the OptiCon Hub to right) Mary Seguiti, Janet Alsbaugh, Joe Sollectio and Brian Goh and Bob Reynolds, OAA President.



(Left to right) Patty Estrada, Leah Exline and Rebecca Morton at the NFOS the Opticon Hub



Mary Seguiti and Thomas Neff



President Bob Russo and Sheri Redshirt

NFOS Faculty At Vision Expo West



NFOS President Bob Russo accepts sponsorship check of \$5,000 from Cheri Guy, Professional Services Manager, Hoya Vision Care. Cheri has been instrumental in supporting the initiatives of the NFOS. Hoya Vision Care is also the major supporter of the NFOS/HOYA College Bowl.

Look for upcoming information about the NFOS/HOYA College Bowl that will take place at Vision Expo East 2020.





At our meeting at Vision Expo West, Judy Lew from Essilor spoke to our members regarding her new role for supporting opticianry. Judy will be contact person from Essilor. Her role will be to provide curriculum support, connect with field consultants and maximize program/opportunities. One program will be to gain access to ECPU University. Judy also presented the NFOS with a sponsorship check for \$5,000.00.

Transitions Student Ambassador program in which 1 opticianry student from each school may be selected to participate. It is an amazing opportunity not only for the selected student but also for the associated knowledge and information the other students will gain. Below is a summary of the program perks and requirements as well as the attached corresponding slides

Click on the Transitions Pro link to take you directly to the Transition Student Ambassador program and application.

www.TransitionsPRO.com/StudentAmbassador

Program Perks:

- Attend Transitions Academy in Orlando, FL(Registration which includes hotel as well as air-fare will be covered by Transitions Optical and Essilor)
- Free pair of Transitions lenses
- Exclusive mentorship program
- Networking with other industry students
- Education tools
- Insider preview of new products
- Fun surprises along the way

Transitions Academy 2020
February 2 - 5
JW Marriott Grande Lakes
Orlando

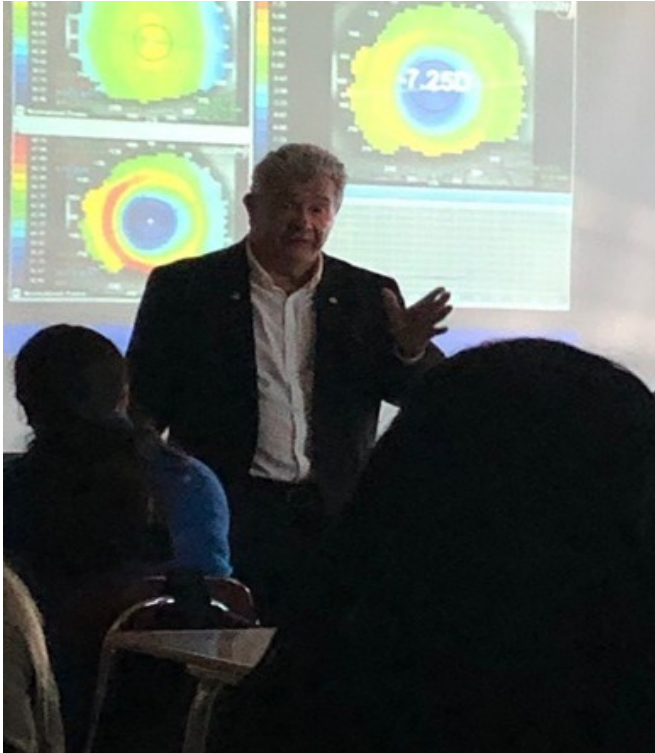
Requirements:

- Recognized as leader amongst their peers
- Available to participate during the 2020 calendar year
- Available to attend the Transitions Academy, Feb 2-5, 2020 in Orlando, FL
- Coordinate and host an event with a Transitions Optical professional advisor and conduct a presentation on campus

If anyone has any questions they can contact myself or Arlene Segovia who manages the program (contact info below). Arlene Segovia, Transitions Optical



Fall News from SUNY Erie Vision Care Technology Program



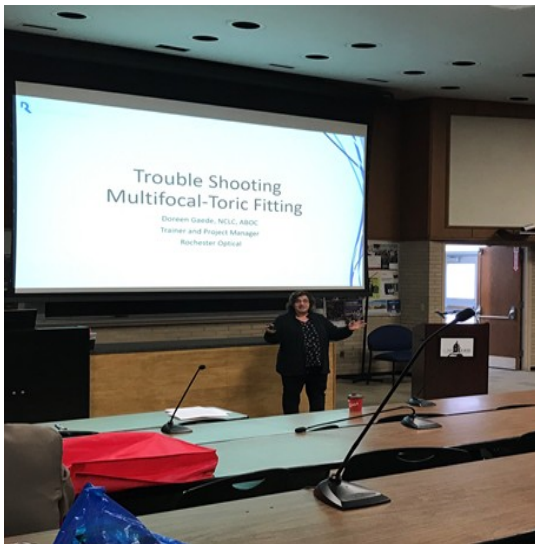
Mike Gzik visits SUNY Erie on October 10th to present a lesson on contact lens sagittal depth to Junior and Senior students. Mike's presentation was well received by students. As an alumnus of Erie Community College, it is always great to welcome Mike back to campus to present his knowledge and expertise to aspiring contact lens fitters. Mike encouraged students to become involved in professional optical organizations. Mike's presentation was sponsored by the National Academy of Opticians.

On October 23rd senior Vision Care students attended an on-campus Transitions Lenses presentation led by Herb Fletcher, Transitions Brand Ambassador for Younger Optics. Herb shared information regarding the latest generation of Transitions and Drivewear lenses along with his extensive experience in the optical field.





SUNY Erie Community College hosts New York State Society of Opticians at Buffalo Symposium October 13th



Doreen Gaede, NCLC, ABOC presents a session on Trouble Shooting Multifocal-Toric Lenses. Doreen is a trainer and project manager at Rochester Optical in Rochester, NY.

NYSSO President Dale Clemens addresses the audience on topics of Abbe Value and Dispersion at NYSSO meeting on October 13th.



Kudos to Assistant Professor Janet Acara for representing NFOS at the ABO-NCLE meeting
August 14-16 in Victoria, BC.



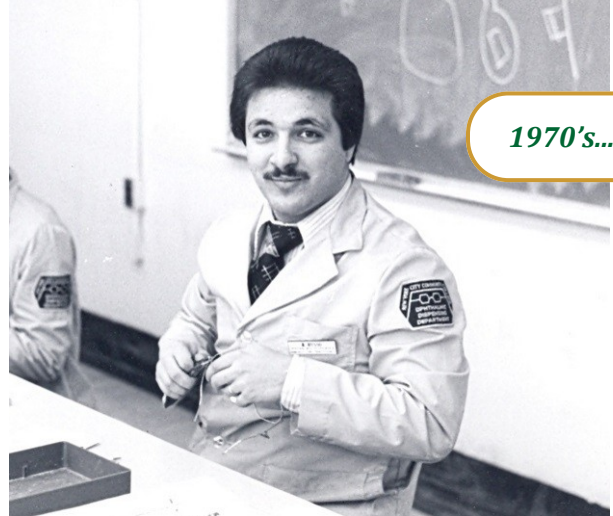
A special goodbye to Professor Russo!

Thank you for **all** of your hard work throughout the years!

Pictures of him at CityTech as a student to present day.



As a student.. (2nd to the right)



1970's...



1980's...



Present day...(and the hair still looks good!)



City Tech and the NFOS family wish you a happy and enjoyable retirement!





Professor Russo Visit

On Tuesday, December 10, Professor Russo made a surprise visit to our third semester students at City Tech. It was very apparent from the time that he walked off the elevator that many of the students were glad to see him. Professor Russo gave the students an overview on the state of opticianry nationally. Of course, the biggest laugh came when he asked the students if they missed his tests and homework questions.

Professor Russo will officially retire from New York City College of Technology on January 27, 2020. One of the biggest things he misses when asked by the students is walking the hallways and talking with the students. It was a nice visit after spending 44 years at the college. Today, Professor Russo spends time lecturing, maintaining his private practice and of course spending time with his grandchildren.





Miami-Dade Community College Visits Thema Optical

For the past two years we have been working together to ensure that the new generation of vision care students are exposed to the manufacturing side of the optical industry. Although they are exposed to lens manufacturing, it would be a disservice to not include the making of the frames. We at Miami Dade College are extremely appreciative of the opportunity to visit Thema Optical's US manufacturing plant in Doral, Florida, an Italian based company. The students need to know that without frames, there are no glasses. The "Art" of making frames has been lost as a result of too much outsourcing to other parts of the world. We are extremely grateful to have Thema in our city to expose the student's to another aspect of our vision care industry.





Fall News from Miami-Dade Community College



Sunday, November 10, 2019

Latest News

Thema Optical to Partner With Miami Dade College Vision Care Technology and Opticianry Program

By Staff

Monday, October 14, 2019 12:21 AM



Miami Dade College Vision Care Technology and Opticianry program students with Giulia Valmassoi, chief executive officer of Thema Optical's North America branch and Oscar Bettello, COO for Thema Optical's North American branch.

MIAMI, Fla.—Thema Optical has partnered with Miami Dade College and its Vision Care Technology and Opticianry program to help prepare students with the knowledge and skills required to take on vision care careers after graduation. This program combines general education courses with career development and work experience; as part of this, Thema Optical will provide students with an inside look at how frames are made to ensure that new students are exposed to the manufacturing side of the optical industry as well

Giulia Valmassoi, chief executive officer of Thema Optical's North America branch said, "It is an honor to partner with Miami Dade College and to open our facility to students who are as passionate about eyewear as we are. The future of the optical industry is bright and it is because of programs like this."



Jacopo Umattino, production manager works with Miami Dade College students.

As a part of Thema's partnership, students meet at the company's manufacturing facility in Miami to get a behind-the-scenes look at how frames are made with Thema's patented 3D Acetate Technology.





Hillsborough Community College

Our Fall semester at HCC was busy with lots of events and changes to our department. Our students participated in many service acts: A week long eye care mission trip to Jamaica, where they served over 1,500 Jamaicans for examinations, surgeries, laser procedures, prescription glasses, readers and sunglasses. They also served in a Remote Area Medical (RAM) 2 day event, and at a Special Olympics event.

As you know, Dr. Bill Underwood retired after more than 23 years of service at HCC. Prior to that, he taught Opticianry in Massachusetts for many years (and was my professor in Boston 1981-1983)! He continues to serve Opticianry through our national organizations.

Bill had big shoes to fill, figuratively and literally. Mary Seguiti has stepped up to be our new program director. She is ROCKING IT. Mary has been with us for many years, and has great passion for our students' success. She is a wonderful mentor to them, and maintains a very positive and professional vibe.

With Mary's transition to program director, it opened a full time tenure-track faculty position which was filled with Thomas Neff. Thomas is one of our graduates, and brings fresh new ideas to our department. He has fabulous IT skills, and is always willing to share his knowledge and talents.

It is a new era for HCC, and I am very optimistic about our future goals and endeavors.



Submitted by Laurie Pierce



Fall News from Georgia Piedmont Technical College

Lanard C. Atkins received faculty member of the month for the month of October.



Our Faculty Member of the Month is...

...Opticianry Program Director and Instructor Lanard Atkins. Mr. Atkins was nominated by Academic Affairs Coordinator Dr. Ramona Pollard who says of him, "Charismatic and devoted, Lanard Atkins' passion for his program and students is evident in all that he does to ensure their success. As a GPTC alumnus, he understands their educational journey and readily shares his experiences in a manner that has resulted in a wait list of students excited about entering the world of Opticianry. Mr. Atkins also spends a great deal of time networking with industry professionals, often traveling well outside the proximity of the college's service area to secure field study placements for his students."

As with all winners, Mr. Atkins will receive a monetary gift, in addition to the college's gratitude for his dedication to GPTC. Remember to submit your nominations for Faculty of the Month via email to Kimberley Alexander. Make sure to tell us why they should be recognized. Nominations for the next issue should be received no later than October 30th. Remember— all faculty (full-time, adjunct, Adult Ed) are eligible and a nomination is a great way to honor and recognize someone dedicated to student success.



Congrats Lanard!





Fall News from Middlesex Community College

Bryan Goh, LO has been selected by the Middlesex Community College in CT as a Full time faculty member for the Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing program. He is an alumnus of the program from the class of 1990. Bryan's 29 years as a Licensed Optician spans a multitude of different Opticianry modalities, including corporate Opticianry, wholesale optical laboratory management, and managing multi location optical shops in Ophthalmology practices. Educating, mentoring and encouraging are his passions, and he strives to continually and measurably improve his students knowledge, the program and the entire profession of Opticianry education. He is excited to join the NFOS family!

Students and faculty members Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing program spent a week at the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota this summer with a volunteer group, Artists for World Peace. Professor Emeritus, Ray Dennis has been truly engaged in mission work to give the gift of eyecare to those throughout the world who need it the most. Ray has traveled and participated in missions all over the world, including Haiti, Tanzania, Ecuador and many more. This service mission, however was closer to home. Professor Dennis has teamed up with AFWP, and along with a team of Ophthalmologists, Optometrists, Opticians and other countless volunteers we participated over a weeklong mission to provide full scope eye exams and free eyewear to a truly amazing group of people. The event served over 900 tribal members. This is likely going to be an annual event, and the next planned dates are May 30 through June 7, 2020. In addition to the international missions, our program believes it is also just as important to meet the unmet needs of those right here in our country. To donate to this great project, or to ask about volunteering, please email aaceto@mxcc.edu . For more on the mission, please <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Xljtvzbsow>



Goodwin College Fall Update

Paint Night

Each fall, Goodwin College hosts a fundraiser for the students; the latest was our 5th annual Paint Night. Vision Care Technology students raised funds to help pay for their upcoming optical trips to OAA Leadership 2020 and Vision Expo East. Over 30 people supported the evening of food, fellowship, and painting. VCT graduates continue to support the current students by attending, and they continue to attend OAA Leadership each year.



Enrollment

The college decided to run a spring 2020 class instead of a fall 2019 cohort, as they wanted a larger group. It was a blessing in disguise for lots of reasons; one being that this may be our largest class to date. Rebecca Soto and Maryann Santos are excited for the upcoming group as we have access to the new Universal Design for Learning (UDL) classroom in our Health Science building. Imagine an almost wall to ceiling white board, SmartBoard, unique table/desk settings, with large windows. The learning environment is flexible, encourages greater engagement and accessibility. 2020 is looking 20/20.



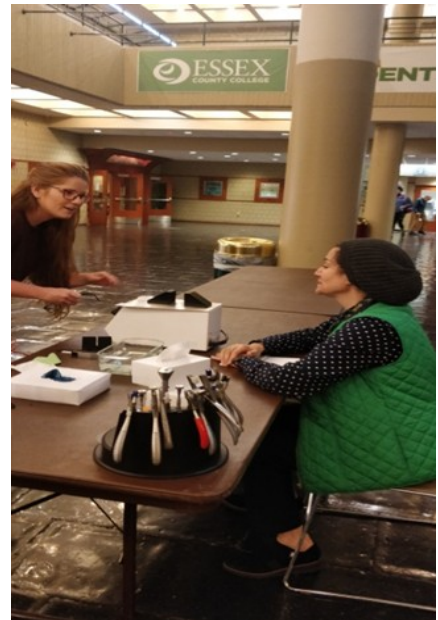
Fall News - Essex County College

Our program was invited to participate in the Essex County College Annual Employee Benefits & Wellness Fair, which took place on Wednesday, October 9 at the main campus building. In this fair, employees have the opportunity to meet with representatives from participating medical, dental and investment carriers as well as other vendors and providers.

We saw this as an opportunity to highlight our program, promoting the many services offered by the optical clinic, and serve the Essex community with needed eyeglass adjustments and repairs. Our students offered to clean, adjust and/or repair glasses and communicated our mission while doing so, in this way we provided a much needed service as well as information to help spread the word, not only about the services offered by the clinic, but also about the Vision Care Technology program as a whole (students to program brochures to hand out to other students as they walked by the fair). Our clinic students are always excited to see staff and other students walk through the doors as every engagement provides an opportunity to increase their knowledge and deepen their understanding of optics, eyeglasses (and their users) and the many challenges that come up for eyeglass wearers, but most importantly how to help overcome those chal-

This day offered us the opportunity to venture out and engage with clients out in the main building lobby, where all the vendors were located, rather than wait for them to walk through our doors. This offered added convenience to our clients and put the students in a position to take a more proactive approach as we seek to promote and grow the clinic practice. The event started at 9:00 am and ran through 3:00 pm. Pictured are students Narine Harutyunyan and Emily Tabor. Not pictured but present were fellow students Amite Nartam, Jorge Morillo, Brenda Garcia, Jessica Lavayen, Crismerys Javier and Elizabeth Avecillas

Article written by: Roberto Gutierrez
Clinic Supervisor





OGEECHEE
TECHNICAL COLLEGE

Ogeechee Technical College Fall News

OTC Opticianry Seniors helped the Georgia Lighthouse with their Eye Clinic in Savannah at the Curtis Cooper Center on August 22, 2019. Also, pictured are the 's Maggie Joseph (Clinic Manager-Savannah) and Jachoa McKelvey (Clinic Manager out of Atlanta) and Dr. Desai (voluntary Optometrist).

OTC help with pre-testing and fitting and taking patients measurements. Also, Dr. Desai had them in the room with her where she allowed them to work the slit lamp and see patient's cataracts.





CSN Optical Students Take on Blind Baseball

Students in the College of Southern Nevada's ophthalmic technologies program suited up and covered their eyes to get a taste of what baseball might be like without their sight.

Led by Scott Helkaa, the program director, CSN students recently faced off against the LV 20/20 team, Las Vegas'

only blind baseball team in a game of Beep Baseball.

CSN students took the field at Gary Dexter park to join in a game with the Las Vegas team. The students served as sighted players and

also took turns wearing blindfolds to mimic how a visually impaired

player navigates the game.

"This experience helps show students there's more than just learning

your profession," Helkaa said. "I heard them say things like 'Wow, now I understand what it's like to not have vision, now I understand

Notably, there is no second base. First and third base are marked with four-foot high padded cylinders with

speakers that emit a buzzing sound when activated. When a player hits a ball, tone of the bases is turned on. The

runner then must run to the correct base before the ball is fielded by a defensive player.

Pitchers and catchers in beep baseball have the ability to see and play a crucial role in using verbal cues to assist other players.



Raritan Valley Fall Update



RVCC Professor Dr. William Velardi Teaching at the Opticians Association of New Jersey (OANJ) fall conference held at Raritan Valley Community College in November, 2019.

Raritan Valley Community college wishes retiring optics Professor Howard Beroff a wonderful retirement. Professor Beroff has taught geometric optics at RVCC for the past 20 years. Next fall Nadine Hermann will take over Professor Beroff's duties. Doctor Hermann is a graduate of our ophthalmic science program. Doctor Hermann then went on for her doctor of optometry degree from Salas University. She is a most welcome addition to our Ophthalmic Science faculty.



Vision Care Technology Program

SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, ALBUQUERQUE NM

Optical Laboratory Technology Certificate

Vision Care Technology AAS Degree

"Focus on a Career with Vision"

Class of 2019 Graduate receives recognition by New Mexico's largest ophthalmic practice. Upon graduation in April of 2019, Latasha Begay joined the Eye Associates of New Mexico team. She was hired as an ophthalmic technician and quickly mastered her technician skills in assisting both optometrists and ophthalmologist. Management recognized her skills and began training her in the area of scribing for various doctors. Latasha past the Certified Ophthalmic Assistant (COA) examination, through the International Joint Commission on Allied Health Personnel in Ophthalmology (IJCAHPO).

Latasha has been with the Eye Associates for 6 months and primarily works for their Pediatric specialists, both teaching and scribing. She also holds a scribe certification through JCAHPO (OSC). Congratulations Latasha!





Vision Care Technology Program

SOUTHWESTERN INDIAN POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE, ALBUQUERQUE NM

Optical Laboratory Technology Certificate

Vision Care Technology AAS Degree

"Focus on a Career with Vision"



The New Optical Image Club members assisted with the organization of the Annual Education Conference at SIPI. The club presented their current work to the New Mexico's State Society Opticians Association of New Mexico (OANM). Students helped with registration and overall set of the conference. Industry professionals throughout New Mexico attended and were able to see the level of formal education students receive at SIPI. Highlights included sharing the latest equipment student are trained to operate and laboratory work completed for Native American Communities in and around the Albuquerque area. Students enhanced their communication skills, team concepts, and networking for future employment opportunities. Both advanced and introduction students participated. Great Job Class of 2020 and 2021!!



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The National Federation of Opticianry Schools

GOLD MEMBER



SHAMIR

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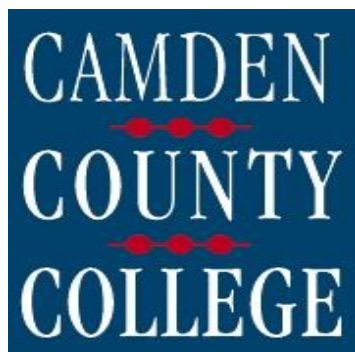
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