

2010 Diversity Grant Program Recipients

Illinois College of Optometry – *Focus on Your Future Summer Program* – The purpose of the week-long Focus on Your Future Summer Program is to expose underrepresented minority undergraduate students to the profession of optometry from various levels. Participants will have the opportunity to meet and work with current optometry students, ICO faculty and staff, as well as practicing optometrists. The students will participate in sample lectures and discuss a variety of topics related to diversity in optometry, the application process, and student and career development.

Indiana University School of Optometry – *Eye Do! Making a Commitment to Optometry* – This program seeks to utilize current campus resources by partnering with the Hudson and Holland Scholars Program (HHSP). The Eye Do! program will provide insight to the profession and shadowing opportunities with IUSO faculty and students, mentorship from faculty as well as support from the Student Administration Office. The Eye Do! program seeks to build a community that will embrace diversity, foster relationships with IUSO faculty/staff/alumni and lay a foundation that will provide mentoring for IUSO students who will return play a key role in recruitment for future classes.

New England College of Optometry – *Optometry Career Program* – The intent of this program is to expose minority high school students at Boston's Codman Academy to the profession of optometry and ultimately increase the number of minority optometrists who will return to and serve their communities. Planned program activities will include clinical site visits around Boston and also time spent at NECO. Participants will receive an introduction to the curriculum, program, and research and also be assigned a NECO student mentor who they can call upon with questions throughout their high school years.

Pacific University College of Optometry – *Pacific University InSight 2010* – The primary objective of this program aims to introduce underrepresented minority students to the profession of optometry by educating undergraduate pre-health students about the optometric profession. The program is a three-day, in-residence experience on Pacific University's Forest Grove campus. Current Pacific University College of Optometry students will serve as program ambassadors, resident advisors, and resources for InSight attendees.

Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University – *Summer Internship Program at The Eye Institute* – The summer internship at They Eye Institute is a collaborative effort with Philadelphia Academies, Inc. The goal of the six-week summer internship program is to interest students from the Philadelphia school system and provide them with the opportunity to become familiar with the profession of optometry and experience the many facets of a large, outpatient, patient-centered eye and vision care practice.

University of Alabama Birmingham School of Optometry – *Providing Diversity in Optometric Education through Continual Enhancement of Current Programs that Promote Diversity in Optometry* – These programs were developed to perform two tasks – minority recruitment and minority retention. The Explorers Post program introduces middle school students to the profession of optometry and the Community Outreach Development (CORD) introduces high school and middle school students to the sciences and healthcare professions. UABSO also continues to enhance relationships with those schools that have the largest minority populations.

Once students matriculate, students have access to the Intro to UABSO Program, which assists students adapting to professional school and also the Brown Bag Lecture Series.

University of California-Berkeley School of Optometry – *Berkeley Optometry Opto-Camp* –

The goal of Berkeley Optometry Opto-Camp is to introduce underrepresented pre-health science majors to optometry as a potential future career track and to prepare them to be successful applicants to optometry school. This three-day “in-residence” experience will provide participants with opportunities to learn about the profession of optometry and the process of becoming an optometrist. Additionally, by enjoining key faculty and staff members to participate in this program, diversity awareness will be heightened.

University of Missouri at St. Louis College of Optometry – *Eyes on Diversity* – In

collaboration with the UMSL Bridge Program, the goal of Eyes on Diversity is to expose, recruit, and retain underrepresented students with regards to optometry. The UMSL Bridge Program is a strong community catalyst for preparing high school students for the rigors of college. With assistance from this program, Eyes on Diversity will create a two-fold program that targets both high school juniors and seniors and optometry students. The program is a five-week technical course that is designed to introduce fifteen students to optometry and will be achieved by employing two optometry students to assist with the technical skills portion of the program. Via a collaborative effort, optometry students will be given the opportunity to work with diverse student backgrounds.

Western University of Health Sciences College of Optometry – *Reaching Out to Families and Communities – Opening Eyes to Optometry* –

The goal of this program is to introduce the profession of optometry to students who are enrolled in the Advancement Via Individual Determination Program and the Medical Academy at Pomona High School, where there is a very diverse student body. By involving the two groups, the goal is to enhance the academic potential of the students and increase awareness of the profession of optometry and start the students on their path in pursuing this as a career. The participants will participate in lectures, hands-on workshops, and panel discussions. An evening program will also be available for parents to find out more about the profession, prerequisite coursework, application process, and financial aid.