

SECO2026
THE EDUCATION DESTINATION™
FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 1, 2026

ANNUAL REPORT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We are thrilled to have you join us at this year's SECO Congress. This incredible gathering is made possible by the dedication of our volunteers and staff, who share a commitment to never resting on our laurels and continuously improving SECO's offerings.

This past year has been one of remarkable growth for SECO, driven by the passion and dedication of our community. A major milestone in our strategic plan was the successful launch of our fall destination CE meeting with AFOS in San Antonio—bringing SECO-caliber education to new audiences and expanding our geographic reach. Building on this success, we host the meeting this September in Las Vegas at the Paris Las Vegas, September 15 – 20 with our partner, AFOS. In response to feedback from San Antonio, this year's meeting expands to include Allied Healthcare Professional education and a small exhibit hall for industry partners.

Despite significant volunteer leadership transitions this past year, our operations never missed a beat. In fact, our team expanded our reach by launching the fall meeting and hosting two webinars with the National Academy of Opticianry - demonstrating the strength and resilience of our organization and the dedication of our volunteers.

A meaningful addition to this year's Congress is the joint awards reception hosted by several member states on Friday evening. This concept emerged directly from your feedback at the member state executive directors meeting at SECO 2025, and we're grateful for your collaboration in making this inaugural program a success.

Internationally, we've strengthened relationships by supporting scope of practice expansion in the Canadian provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, and Nova Scotia while facilitating collaboration between state leaders. We celebrated legislative victories in West Virginia and Virginia, and we continue supporting professional advancement nationwide through comprehensive laser, surgical, and aesthetics education - offered at our Congress, our fall meeting, and year-round through SECO University.

SECO University has been completely revamped! The redesigned platform features personalized learning paths tailored to your professional role - optometrist, student, technician, optician, or administrator - making it easier than ever to access relevant education. Our profit-share program with member states continues quarterly. While the market has shifted since the pandemic with the proliferation of free online CE, we're proud to maintain strong paid subscriptions and continue sharing revenue with our participating member states.

On behalf of the Southern Council of Optometrists/SECO International, I thank you for your participation and enthusiasm. Your engagement is what makes this event so special and impactful. We are grateful to have you as part of our community.

I LOVE OPTOMETRY - because to me, YOU, my friends and colleagues, are OPTOMETRY!

Tim Barry, O.D.
 Tim Barry, OD
 President

LEADERSHIP

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Dr. Tim Barry
PRESIDENT



Dr. Dave Rouse
PRESIDENT ELECT



Dr. Matt Burchett
VICE PRESIDENT



Dr. Brad Lane
TREASURER



Dr. Patricia Walker
SECRETARY



Dr. Horace Deal
IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

BOARD OF TRUSTEES



DR. HOWARD DAY
ALABAMA



DR. PATRICIA FLIPPIN-WESTFALL
ARKANSAS



DR. BRYAN STARM
FLORIDA



DR. BEN CASELLA
GEORGIA



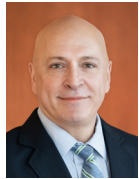
DR. TESHAWNA SUTTON
KENTUCKY



DR. JEFF ANASTASIO
LOUISIANA



DR. MIKE WEEDEN
MISSISSIPPI



DR. MICHAEL HAINES
NORTH CAROLINA



DR. MICHELLE WELCH
OKLAHOMA



DR. LORI ROBERTS HAUSER
SOUTH CAROLINA



DR. LAURA SECHLER
TENNESSEE



DR. JOE DROTTER
VIRGINIA



DR. SHAWN SAMMONS
WEST VIRGINIA

WHAT IS SOCO/SECO?

STATE ASSN.	MEMBERS	DELEGATES
Alabama	354	14
Arkansas	325	13
Florida	1345	54
Georgia	631	25
Kentucky	610	24
Louisiana	343	14
Mississippi	266	11
North Carolina	942	38
Oklahoma	507	20
South Carolina	395	15
Tennessee	370	16
Virginia	654	26
West Virginia	190	8

STATE MEMBERSHIP **6,947**
 Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS)
 Association of Optometrists (UK)
 Colegio de Optometristas de Costa Rica
 Federacion Colombiana de Optometras (FEDOPTO)
 South African Optometric Association
 Trinidad & Tobago Optometrists Association
 World Council of Optometry (WCO)

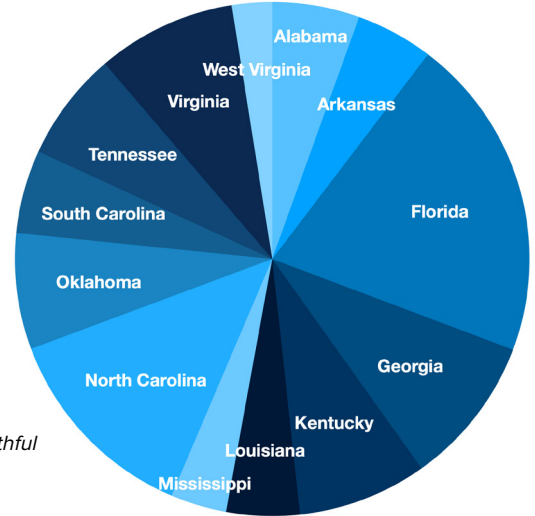
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP **18,451**

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP **25,398**



Dr. Patricia Walker
Secretary

I certify that this membership is valid and truthful to the knowledge of the Southern Council of Optometrists, Inc.

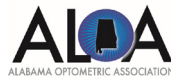


SECO International is comprised of 13 state optometric associations and six associated organizations. Any practicing optometrist that is a member of the state association of any of these 13 member-states or associated organizations is considered a member of the Southern Council of Optometrists.

SECO continues to enhance its presence both nationally and internationally. SECO continuously seeks to produce the best continuing education event in optometry and advance the profession of optometry worldwide.

Member States

- Alabama Optometric Association
- Arkansas Optometric Association
- Florida Optometric Association
- Georgia Optometric Association
- Kentucky Optometric Association
- Mississippi Optometric Association
- North Carolina State Optometric Society
- Oklahoma Association of Optometric Physicians
- Optometry Association of Louisiana
- South Carolina Optometric Physicians Association
- Tennessee Association of Optometric Physicians
- Virginia Optometric Association
- West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians



Associate Members

- Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS)
- Association of Optometrists (UK)
- Colegio de Optometristas de Costa Rica
- Federacion Colombiana de Optometras (FEDOPTO)
- South African Optometric Association (SAOA)
- Trinidad & Tobago Optometrists Association (TTOA)
- World Council of Optometry (WCO)



Expanded Partnerships



EDUCATION

Vice President Matt Burchett, OD
Officer Liaison, Department of Communication

Chris Wroten, OD
General CE Chair

This year, we're introducing special programs that cater to all facets of the eye care profession, ensuring that every member of the eye care team—whether optometrists, paraoptometric, opticians, or students—has access to tailored, high-impact education.



Laser & Surgical Certification Programs 2.0

SECO 2026 partnered with Northeastern State University's Oklahoma College of Optometry to offer two updated 16-hour certification programs covering advanced laser procedures and surgical skills, featuring new content and hands-on training not found at other meetings.



"See it First at SECO"

SECO continues to lead the way in optometric education by providing attendees with exclusive first access to groundbreaking content on clinical advancements, disease management, AI applications, and more.



MedPRO360 Business Program

Explore topics like AI implementation, leadership strategies, and staff retention, equipping you with tools for success in today's evolving business landscape.



Keynote Session

Keynote Session "Eye Care Reimagined: The AI Advantage" delivers a practical roadmap for leveraging AI across every aspect of optometric practice, from patient care to practice operations.



SECO's Innovation series on AI

SECO's Innovation Series on Artificial Intelligence offered a dedicated series of dynamic courses and hands-on workshops exploring the transformative role of AI in optometric practice, from clinical diagnostics to practice operations.



Special Sessions

SECO's Iconic Special Sessions featured three industry-leading panels covering myopia management and genetics, ocular surface disease, and contemporary glaucoma care.



Optical Theater

The Optical Theater featured two exclusive experiences: a fashion-forward eyewear trend showcase and the Optical Throwdown, a live creative display competition hosted by industry icons Phernell Walker and Bill Gerber.



Certification Programs

We are excited to announce the return of our successful Certificate Programs this year.



CONTACT LENS
SUMMIT

The Contact Lens Summit brought together four expert faculty members for two free CE sessions covering real-world case management and the latest insights from clinical research and peer-reviewed publications.



These sessions are designed to provide attendees with knowledge in understanding the complexities glaucoma, dry eye, and myopia.

Technology Supports Education



SECO University: Year-Round Education, Revamped

The completely revamped SECO University platform delivers personalized learning paths tailored to each user's professional role, ensuring the most relevant education is always front and center. From on-demand courses and live webinars to podcasts and beyond, the platform provides a comprehensive year-round resource for continuing education and professional growth, with a complimentary one-year subscription included for Congress-type registration package holders.

Secretary Patricia Walker, OD
Officer Liaison, Department of Communication

Derrick Thornton, OD
Technology Chair



In partnership with the National Academy of Opticianry (NAO), SECO University hosted 16 hours of continuing education via SECO University in 2025.

These programs covered essential topics in opticianry, enhancing clinical skills, patient care, and business acumen. Each session was carefully curated to address current industry trends, ensuring that attendees gained practical knowledge they could immediately apply in their practices. By offering these courses through SECO University, opticians had the flexibility to access top-tier education on their own schedules, reinforcing SECO's commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth within the eye care community.

EXHIBITS

Treasurer Brad Lane, OD
Department of Business Affairs

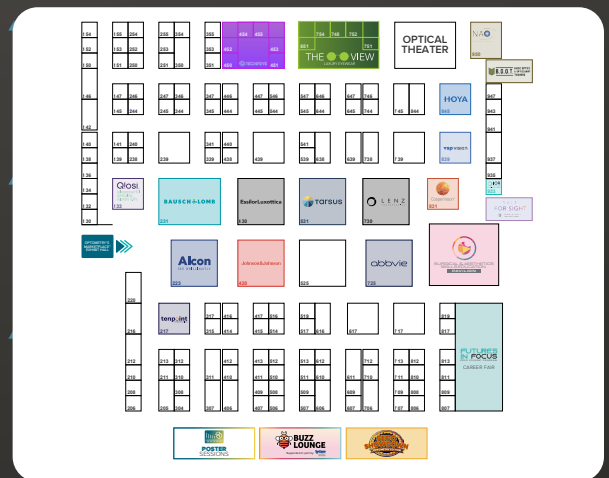
Freddie Mayes, OD
Exhibits Chair

Darby Chiasson, OD
Exhibits Vice Chair

Optometry's Marketplace is an essential component of the Congress and, along with the latest products and technology from the optometric industry, offers free education, events, and more.

Optometry's Marketplace™ brings together the full scope of the eye care industry under one roof, offering attendees direct access to the latest innovations in clinical care, diagnostics, and practice management.

Professionals connect with industry leaders, vendors, and colleagues to exchange ideas and explore new opportunities for their practices. Hands-on learning experiences allowed attendees to refine skills and engage with emerging technologies firsthand, while exclusive education sessions and panel discussions delivered meaningful insight into the future of the profession.



NEW EXHIBIT HALL TRAFFIC DRIVERS



HOYA Basic Optics & Optician Training (BOOT Camp)

The HOYA Basic Optics & Optician Training program, offered free of charge on Saturday, February 28, provided a full-day hands-on introduction to optical fundamentals for new and cross-training practice staff. Covering frame selection, prescription basics, measurements, lens selection, verification, and adjustments, the program gave participants practical skills they could bring back to the office immediately.



Optical Theater

The Optical Theater, located inside Optometry's Marketplace™ Exhibit Hall, brought a fresh and energetic dimension to SECO 2026. Led by industry icons Phernell Walker, MBA and Bill J. Gerber, BA, the program combined eyewear fashion education with hands-on competition, giving optical professionals an experience that was as engaging as it was practical. From trend forecasting to creative display challenges, the Optical Theater was a standout addition to the SECO 2026 floor.



SECO Professional Opportunities Recruiting Fair

The SECO Professional Opportunities Recruiting Fair drew optometry students and recent graduates into Optometry's Marketplace™ on Saturday morning, adding energy and foot traffic to the exhibit hall floor during peak hours. The event connected the next generation of eye care professionals with state association representatives, industry leaders, and potential employers, creating a natural bridge between the educational program and the broader SECO 2026 exhibit hall experience.

DESTINATION SECO

In September 2025, SECO partnered with the Armed Forces Optometric Society (AFOS) to present the AFOS & SECO Education Destination: San Antonio, held September 10–14 along the city's historic River Walk. The one-of-a-kind program united military, federal, and civilian optometrists for a week of cutting-edge continuing education, hands-on workshops, and collaborative learning, complemented by social events that celebrated both the profession and the vibrant city of San Antonio.



ASSOCIATION OF ARMED FORCES
AND FEDERAL OPTOMETRIC SERVICES

SECO Statement of Financial Position

	2024
Current Assets	\$919,855
Property and Equipment / Fixed Net Assets	\$282,184
Other Assets	\$1,361,709
Total Assets	\$2,563,748
Current Liabilities	\$699,924
Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,863,824
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$2,563,748



PAST PRESIDENTS



Dr. A.A. Schade
1924
South Carolina



Dr. E.A. Alexander
1948
North Carolina



Dr. John D. Costabile
1969
North Carolina



Dr. Robert G. Traylor
1989
Mississippi



Dr. Jonathan Shrewsbury
2009
Kentucky



Dr. M.B. Clason
1925
Georgia



Dr. C.C. Johnson
1949
South Carolina



Dr. Leon M. Reiss
1970
Louisiana



Dr. Jerry B. Park
1990
Arkansas



Dr. Ron Bannister
2010
Georgia



Dr. Robert N. Walker
1926
North Carolina



Dr. Leo G. Raum
1950
Alabama



Dr. Howard P. Winton
1971
Florida



Dr. Richard E. Schuck
1991
Kentucky



Dr. Neil Draisin
2011
South Carolina



Dr. J.C. DuBose
1927
Florida



Dr. Starr E. Steele
1951
Kentucky



Dr. L.B. Adkins
1972
Mississippi



Dr. Robert W. Lopanik
1992
South Carolina



Dr. Ron Foreman
2012
Florida



Dr. Nathan Rosenstein
1928
North Carolina



Dr. A. Robert Koch
1952
West Virginia



Dr. J. Gordon Butterfield
1973
West Virginia



Dr. Howard Braverman
1993
Florida



Dr. Darby Chiasson
2013
Louisiana



Dr. H.P. McDonald
1929-30
Alabama



Dr. M.G. Hamrick
1953
Virginia



Dr. Gerald M. Thomas
1974
Georgia



Dr. L. Wayne Brown
1994
Georgia



Dr. Jim Herman
2014
West Virginia



Dr. M.R. Campbell
1931
South Carolina



Dr. J.N. Lipscomb
1954
South Carolina



Dr. James R. Prince
1975
Virginia



Dr. Lowell C. Jones Jr.
1995
Mississippi



Dr. Stan Dickerson
2015
Tennessee



Dr. George W. Blakely
1932
Alabama



Dr. K.W. Ramsey
1955
North Carolina



Dr. Bert O. Miller
1976
Arkansas



Dr. Andrew G. Cook Jr.
1996
North Carolina



Dr. Ted McElroy
2016
Georgia



Dr. Esther Ingram
1933-34
Florida



Dr. Andrew J. Denman
1956
Georgia



Dr. Ralph F. Mead
1977
Florida



Dr. C. Thomas Crooks III
1997
Alabama



Dr. Lynn Hammonds
2017
Alabama



Dr. William C. Ezell
1935-37
South Carolina



Dr. Ned P. Hobbs
1957
South Carolina



Dr. Robert D. Sullivan
1978
Tennessee



Dr. Don E. Williamson
1998
Florida



Dr. Emilio Baius
2018
Florida



Dr. Thomas D. Hopkins
1938
Alabama



Dr. Robert R. Burrage
1958
Virginia



Dr. Rene J. Pigeon
1979
Louisiana



Dr. Gordon W. Jennings
1999
Virginia



Dr. J. Maxwell Ernst
2019
Kentucky



Dr. S.S. Lewis
1939
Louisiana



Dr. W.E. Terry
1959
Tennessee



Dr. Frank B. Day
1980
North Carolina



Dr. Robert W. Smalling
2000
Arkansas



Dr. Max Raynor
2020
North Carolina



Dr. Walker H. Matthews
1940
Georgia



Dr. James S. Bailey
1960
North Carolina



Dr. O.L. Avery Sr.
1981
Kentucky



Dr. Stuart J. Thomas
2001
Georgia



Dr. Richard Durocher
2021
Tennessee



Dr. James A. Palmer
1961
North Carolina



Dr. Jack Runninger
1961
Georgia



Dr. James E. Herrington
1982
Mississippi



Dr. Vaughn Sanders
2002
Kentucky



Dr. Christine Cook
2022
Virginia



Dr. Ralph Davis
1942
Tennessee



Dr. F. Robert Ginsberg
1962
Georgia



Dr. G. Robert Crosby
1983
Alabama



Dr. William W. Spearman
2003
South Carolina



Dr. Michelle Cooper
2023
South Carolina



Dr. Dave L. Williams
1943
Georgia



Dr. James F. Loomis
1963-64
Florida



Dr. John E. Casto
1984
West Virginia



Dr. Richard W. Phillips
2004
Tennessee



Dr. Horace Deal
2024
South Carolina



Dr. Leon C. Ransone
1944
Virginia



Dr. Henry V. Sawyer
1965
South Carolina



Dr. Daniel Houghton Jr.
1985
Florida



Dr. Lowell Gilbert
2005
Virginia



Dr. Charles B. Stovall
1945
Kentucky



Dr. J. Kelley Robinson
1966
Alabama



Dr. William G. Hendrix
1986
North Carolina



Dr. Sidney J. Stern
2006
Florida



Dr. William Greenspon
1946
West Virginia



Dr. William D. Sullins
1967
Tennessee



Dr. Kirk L. Smick
1987
Georgia



Dr. Douglas Clark
2007
Alabama



Dr. A. Scott Gibson
1947
Georgia



Dr. W.A. Owensby
1968
Georgia



Dr. Ernest Schlabach
1988
Virginia



Dr. Wilburn Lord Jr.
2008
Mississippi

Committees

Chris Wroten, OD
GENERAL CE CHAIR

Paul C. Ajamian, OD
ADVISORY EMERITUS, EDUCATION

OPTOMETRIC EDUCATION
Caroline Pate, OD (Vice-chair)
Nate Lighthizer, OD
Glen Steele, OD
Bonnie-Kim Schwartz, OD
Breanne McGhee, OD
Blair Holden, OD

ALLIED HEALTHCARE PROFESSIONALS EDUCATION
Belinda Coberly, CPOA
Diane Drake, LDO, ABOM, NCLEM

REGISTRATION AMBASSADORS
Joel Byars, OD (Chair)
Ron Bannister, OD
Martha Morrow, OD

AWARDS & RESOLUTIONS
Richard Durocher, OD (Chair)
Michelle Cooper, OD
Christine Cook, OD

WORKSHOPS
Jim Herman, OD
Tom Griffith, OD

EDUCATION AMBASSADORS
Seth Williams, OD (Chair)
Len Brown, OD
Michelle Cooper, OD
Mehrddad Saadat, OD

EXHIBITS
Freddie Mayes, OD (Chair)
Darby Chiasson, OD (Vice Chair)
Lynn Lawrence, MS, CPOT, ABOC, COA, OSC

FINANCE COMMITTEE
Brad Lane, OD (Chair)
Howard Day, OD
Lori Roberts-Hauser, OD

FUTURE EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES COMMITTEE
Neil Draisin, OD (Chair)
Ted McElroy, OD

INDUSTRY & PROFESSIONAL RELATIONS
Jonathan Shrewsbury, OD (Chair)
Amanda Brewer-Lord, OD
Susan Keene, OD
Jennifer Zolman, OD

INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH
Glen Steele, OD (Chair)

MEDPRO360 EDUCATION
Ted McElroy, OD (Chair)
Neil Draisin, OD
Brianna Goodson, CPOA
Catherine Johnson, OD
Lynn Lawrence, MS, CPOT, ABOC, COA, OSC
Sharon Carter

PAST PRESIDENTS ADVISORS
Stan Dickerson, OD (Chair)
All Past Presidents

RESERVE FUND
Horace Deal, OD (Chair)
Teshawna Sutton, OD
Mike Weeden, OD

SECO UNIVERSITY
Paige Bush, OD
Roy Attar, OD
Juan Canizales, OD
Dean Gurley, OD
Charles Harrill, OD
Marc Hudson, OD
Bob McCullough, OD
Alice Sterling, OD
Tammy Than, OD
Terry Tucker, OD

SCHOOLS & COLLEGES OF OPTOMETRY OUTREACH
Christine Cook, OD (Chair)
Kayla Campbell, OD
Walter Jackson, OD
Sherril Reynolds, OD (NOVA)
Candice Turner, OD (UAB)
Caitlyn Estevez-Averhart, OD (UPIKE)
Komal Patel, OD (NSUOCO)
Shaleen Ragha, OD (SCO)

STUDENT
NOVA - Reggie Cires
NSUOCO - Callie Swenson
UPIKE - Courtnee Lyttle
SCO - Sarah Briggs
UAB - Isabelle Smith

TECHNOLOGY
Derrick Thornton, OD (Chair)
Mollie Glenn, OD
Adam Parker, OD
Kristin Sullins, OD

MARKETING
Horace Deal, OD
Tim Barry, OD
Brad Lane, OD
Dave Rouse, OD
Matt Burchett, OD
Patricia Walker, OD

SECO 2026 AWARD WINNERS



PRESIDENT'S AWARD

In Memory of Mrs. Lana Sandefur

SECO International is honored to present the 2026 President's Award in memory of Mrs. Lana Ruth Mynatt Sandefur, recognizing a life defined by compassion, faith, and unwavering support for family and community. Mrs. Sandefur was beloved for her warmth and kindness and was widely admired for the grace with which she supported those around her.

She also held a cherished place within the optometric community, where many affectionately recognized her as "First Lady" in Louisiana, reflecting the respect she earned through years of service and support. Her legacy continues through a memorial scholarship established in her name at the Southern College of Optometry, benefiting future generations.



PAUL C. AJAMIAN, OD DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

Chris Wroten, OD

SECO International is proud to recognize Christopher W. Wroten, OD with the 2026 Paul C. Ajamian, OD Distinguished Service Award for his outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to SECO and the profession.

A Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry, Dr. Wroten has contributed extensively through leadership in organized optometry and education, including long-term adjunct faculty roles and significant service to the Southern College of Optometry Board of Trustees, including as Chair.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SOUTH

Chad Robinson (West Virginia Association of Optometric Physicians)

SECO International is pleased to recognize Chad Robinson as the 2026 Executive Director of the South, honoring his outstanding leadership, strategic advocacy, and dedication to advancing optometric care in West Virginia.

Mr. Robinson has been credited with pivotal legislative and organizational accomplishments, including modernizing optometric scope and strengthening professional protections and membership initiatives. His efforts supported a landmark "as-taught" scope advancement, helping expand access to advanced optometric procedures for patients across the state.

ASSOCIATE MEMBER AWARD

Colegio de Optometristas de Costa Rica

(Posthumous Recognition for Dr. José Francisco Bonilla Miralles)

SECO International is honored to recognize the Colegio de Optometristas de Costa Rica with the 2026 Associate Member Award, presented in a posthumous tribute to Dr. José Francisco Bonilla Miralles.

Founded in 1966, the Colegio de Optometristas de Costa Rica is the institution responsible for regulating and strengthening optometry in Costa Rica, promoting ethical standards, continuing education, and protection of the public through qualified professional services.

Dr. Bonilla Miralles is remembered as a respected optometrist and admired leader whose career reflected long-term service and dedication to professional excellence and unity.





OPTOMETRIST OF THE SOUTH
David L. Parker, OD

SECO International is honored to present the 2026 Optometrist of the South Award to David L. Parker, OD, a distinguished optometrist and public servant recognized for more than three decades of dedication to optometry, advocacy, and community leadership.

Dr. Parker has built a thriving optometric practice and has also served the public through his long tenure in the Mississippi State Senate, where he held multiple leadership roles and contributed to initiatives strengthening healthcare and public welfare.

His leadership and advocacy have helped shape meaningful progress for the profession, including work supporting optometric scope advancement and improved patient access to care.



YOUNG OPTOMETRIST OF THE SOUTH
Jade Coats, OD, FAAO

SECO International is proud to recognize Jade Coats, OD, FAAO as the 2026 Young Optometrist of the South, honoring her remarkable achievements as a clinician, educator, author, and advocate.

Dr. Coats has been recognized as one of the nation's leading young optometric voices, with a strong record of leadership in organized optometry, national speaking engagements, clinical research involvement, and professional service. Her nomination highlights her clinical excellence, widespread contributions to continuing education, and growing national influence.



OPTICIAN OF THE SOUTH
Judith Boyer Lew, LDO, ABOC

SECO International proudly presents the 2026 Optician of the South Award to Judith Lew, LDO, ABOC. Ms. Lew currently serves as Professional Development Director for EssilorLuxottica and is widely recognized for her longstanding dedication to education, professional training, and support of opticianry students and emerging leaders.

She has also served in leadership roles with the National Academy of Opticianry (NAO) and other industry organizations. In recognition of her exceptional influence and service, Lew was awarded Vision Monday's 2023 Most Influential Women in Optical Award and received the 2024 Opticians Association of America (OAA) President's Award. Her impact across the optical industry - through advocacy, mentorship, and professional development - makes her an outstanding recipient of this prestigious honor.



PARAOPTOMETRIC OF THE SOUTH
Kimberly Pickle, CPOA

SECO International is honored to recognize Kimberly Pickle, CPOA as the 2026 Paraoptometric of the South, celebrating her exceptional dedication to patient care, practice leadership, and service.

Ms. Pickle serves as Office Manager at Southern Eye Care of Clinton and has more than a decade of experience supporting clinical care, patient services, and team leadership.

Her leadership includes service as President of the Mississippi Paraoptometric Association, along with continued contributions to paraoptometric education and community outreach, including vision health presentations and charitable initiatives.

These awardees embody the values of excellence, leadership, and service in eye care. SECO International congratulates them for their remarkable achievements and contributions to the profession.

SUPPORTERS

Treasurer Brad Lane, OD
Treasurer, Officer Liaison, Department of Business Affairs

Jonathan Shrewsbury, OD
Chair, IPRC

SECO International delivers world-class optometric education thanks to the continued support of our industry partners. The Industry and Professional Relations Committee works year-round with staff to grow our corporate support and sponsorship opportunities with industry to ensure that SECO Supporters maximize their exposure and return on investment.



**SYMPOSIUM
SERIES**

The SECO 2026 Symposium Series expanded again and now includes a Friday Dinner and Saturday Breakfast.

Educational Grantors

SECO International has received unrestricted educational grant support for the SECO 2026 continuing education program from the following grantors:

Alcon

Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc.

SECO2026
THE EDUCATION DESTINATION™
FEBRUARY 25 - MARCH 1, 2026

SECO INTERNATIONAL WOULD LIKE
TO THANK OUR SECO 2026 SUPPORTERS

TITLE PARTNER

BAUSCH + LOMB

PRESENTING PARTNER

Alcon
SEE BRILLIANTLY

FEATURED SUPPORTER

Johnson & Johnson

CONTRIBUTING SUPPORTERS

EssilorLuxottica **LENZ**

TARSUS

PROMOTIONAL SUPPORTERS

abbvie **CooperVision** **HOYA** **IOR**
QIOLIS **tenpoint** **vsp vision**

Matt Burchett, OD
Vice President
Officer Liaison, Department of
Business Affairs

Jonathan Shrewsbury, OD
Chair, IPRC

SECO FOR STUDENTS

Treasurer, Brad Lane, OD Officer Liaison, Department of Business Affairs
Christie Cook, OD Chair

Blended Part 1 Board Review

We are excited to offer this rapid-fire prep course for all students, an excellent opportunity to assess students strengths and weaknesses as they prepare for Part I.

SECO Professional Opportunities Recruiting Fair

The SECO Professional Opportunities Recruiting Fair drew optometry students and recent graduates into Optometry's Marketplace™, adding energy and foot traffic to the exhibit hall floor during peak hours.

SECO Showdown: Optometry Edition

Returning for SECO 2026, the Family Feud-style SECO Showdown was hosted once again by Dr. Paul C. Ajamian, where ten optometry students competed for a grand prize of \$2,500. Held at the Young Professionals' Forum Booth on Saturday, the event brings excitement, teamwork, and friendly competition to Optometry's Marketplace™ Exhibit Hall.

Journey Through Optometry Student Reception

The Journey Through Optometry Student Reception gave optometry students a dedicated space to explore the diverse career paths available within the profession. Featuring optometrists from a range of practice settings, the session offered real-world perspective, actionable guidance, and an open Q&A format that encouraged meaningful dialogue between students, mentors, and peers.

Futures in Focus VIP Networking Event

Sponsored in part by VSP Vision, the VIP Student Reception offered optometry students and residents an exclusive evening at the Georgia Aquarium, bringing together emerging professionals and established leaders for networking, complimentary refreshments, and prize drawings before transitioning into the SECO Saturday Night social event.

SECO Student Representatives

NOVA Reggie Cires
NSUOCO Callie Swenson
UPIKE Courtnee Lyttle
SCO Sarah Briggs
UAB Isabelle Smith

2026 Clinical Excellence Award Winners

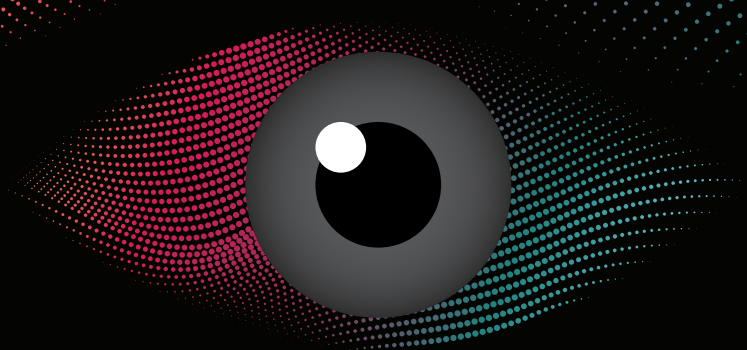
UPIKE Amanda Putorek
SCO Austin Boice
NOVA Tareq Al Zaidi
UAB Ashley Lawson Price
NSUOCO Tate Buster

Travel Grants

To support the next generation of eye care professionals, SECO 2026 offered \$250 travel grants to help optometry students attend the Congress. Visit attendseco.com/students to make a donation.

SECO Exhibitors

COMPANY NAME	BOOTH	COMPANY NAME	BOOTH	COMPANY NAME	BOOTH	COMPANY NAME	BOOTH
AbbVie	725	Doctor Multimedia	213	Lumenis Vision	446	Review of Optometry	617
Adit	250	Doctora	744	MacuHealth	414	RevolutionEHR	645
Advancing Eyecare	516	Dompé	417	MaximEyes by First Insight	611+613	Rinsada (Excutive Biotech Advisors)	339
AG Essentials	512	Dr. Contact Lens	511	Menicon	547	Safilo	346
Alcon	223	Eastern Ophthalmic Supply & Repair	220	Modern Optometry/Bryn Mawr	410	ScienceBased Health	541
Amcon Labs	546	E-Dr. Network/New Era	415	MyEyeDr	212	Scope Health (Optos)	935
American Association of Corporate Optometrists	813	Elevate Eyecare	413	Nannodropper	130	Smart Optometry (Eye Hero)	513
American Board of Opticianry - National Contact Lens Examiners (ABO/NCLE)	252	Elite Payment Group	146	National Academy of Opticianry (NAO)	950	Soniquence	819
American Board of Optometry	411	EssilorLuxottica	430	National Board of Examiners in Optometry	710	Southern College of Optometry	247
Anagram	550	Eye Cloud Pro	606	neurolens®	738	Stellmacher Instruments Inc	506
Armed Forces Optometric Society	711	Eye Designs, LLC	544	Next Vision Instruments/ENVI	739	Sun Pharma	315
Aspex Eyewear	251	Eye Doc IQ	607	Nidek Inc.	519	Tarsus	531
ATS SSO	152	EyeCare Partners	514	Notal Vision	246	TechifEYE	455
Avesis	308	EYEPIXX	646	Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry	807	Teem	717
AVP SEES Group	151	Foundation Fighting Blindness	609	Oasis Medical	205	Tenpoint Therapeutics	217
Avulux	844	Gazal Eyewear	655	Oculus	238	The Dry Eye Doctor, Inc.	817
Barti	440	Glaukos	438	OCuSOFT	445	Thea Pharma Inc.	439
Bausch + Lomb	231	Haro Health	416	Olleyes	452	TheraMed	139
BILL	304	Harrow	525	OMNI Solutions	509	Tixel by Novoxel Inc.	136
BlinkRx	307	Hilco Vision Care Solutions: Bruder Healthcare M&S Technologies	239	Optical Training Institute	138	Topcon Healthcare	339
Anthem Blue View Vision	647	HIMAX DREAM EYEWEAR INC	812	Opticians Association of Georgia	947	United States Air Force	808
BQ Ergonomics LLC	344	HOYA Vision Care	845	Optify	451	United States Navy Medical Recruiting	511
Brill International	507	ICARE USA	311	OPTIKAM TECH INC	517	Versant Health	707
BTL	351	InMode	350	Optometric Aesthetics	545	Viatrix Inc.	245
Care Payments Group	453	INVISION MAGAZINE	130	Optometric Architects	240	Virtual Field	447
Carl Zeiss Meditec USA, Inc.	216	Innova Systems	644	Optos, Inc.	616	Virtual Vision Health	145
Cellution Biologics	510	IOR Partners	933	Orasis Pharmaceuticals, Ltd.	133	Vision Source	706
Clasp	409	Iris Galerie	147	OVVO Optics	754	Vision To Learn	709
Clix Therapy	345	IrisMed	746	OWL: Advancing Diversity in Leadership	208	VisionHQ	610
Coburn Technologies	312	Johnson & Johnson Vision	420	Pharmanex	244	Visionix	639
Complete Optometric Billing & Coding	211	Jonathan Cate	550	Phelcom Technologies	310	Volk Optical	407
Compulink Healthcare Solutions	539	Kasperek Optical	347	Plusoptix	210	VOSH International	809
CooperVision	831	Kedrion Biopharma Inc.	317	PNC Bank	206	VSP Vision	839
Creative Education Studio	806	Kentucky College of Optometry	943	POETS Eyewear	651	Wal-Mart	508
DAC Vision	513	Kering Eyewear USA, Inc	341	Prime Ophthalmic	406	Walman Optical	638
David Spencer Eyewear	751	Konan Medical	810	Professional Eye Care Associates of America (PECAA)	937	Weave	745
Dermatech Innovations	444	Leidos QTC Health Services	132	RCEENetworks	141	WestGroupe	140
DGH Technology Inc.	713	Lenz Therapeutics	730	Reflexion Digital	941		
Digital Healthcare Professionals	139	LKC Technologies	712	Remote Area Medical	811		



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