



For Immediate Release
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Salus University Welcomes New PCO Externship Program Director



Elkins Park, Pa. — The Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University recently appointed **Rachel Brackley, OD '09, Resident '10, FAAO**, as the new director of externship programs, Optometry.

For the past five years, Dr. Brackley has been working as the externship liaison to the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University's Accelerated Scholars Doctor of Optometry program assisting its 12 to 14 students.

“I’ve been a faculty member for eight and a half years and I really feel familiar with the program,” said Dr. Brackley, who was promoted to PCO Externship Program director in February 2022. “This is an opportunity for growth, and I was ready for the next step, the next part of my career.”

Working with the Scholars in the externship program, Dr. Brackley had a lot of interactions with **Satya Verma, OD ‘75, FAAO, DPNAP, Diplomate** — the longtime director of the Externship program who retired at the end of 2021 after 50 years with the University. She was able to observe up-close his ability to see a situation, assess it and know the appropriate next steps. A valuable experience for Dr. Brackley, she watched how he developed relationships with both the students and the preceptors.

“I think Dr. Verma’s vast experience and wisdom is going to be the hardest thing for me to do in filling his shoes,” she said.

In addition, Dr. Brackley said Dr. Verma isn’t disappearing completely from the scene. She’s confident he will continue to mentor her when needed and will be reachable when she needs his advice.

But, the functionality of the externship program is now Dr. Brackley’s to move forward. She said what excites her most about her new position is building relationships with both students and preceptors.

“It’s a privilege to be given the opportunity to have influence over that part of their education because it’s an invaluable part of their educational experience and it really is a step in molding them into my colleagues,” she said.

She was also quick to note the support she’s received since her promotion was announced to the University family has been quite positive.

“I’ve been humbled by the support from the students and how many of them have reached out and said congratulations,” said Dr. Brackley. “I’ve been overwhelmed.”

About Salus University

Salus University, founded as the Pennsylvania College of Optometry in 1919, today is a diversified, globally recognized professional academic center of learning that offers a wide range of degree programs in the professions of Optometry, Audiology, Physician Assistant, Blindness and Low Vision Studies, Biomedicine, Occupational Therapy and Speech-Language Pathology. Salus operates four clinical facilities in Philadelphia and Montgomery counties that provide highly specialized vision, hearing and balance, speech-language pathology and occupational therapy services. The University has more than 1,200 students, and more than 14,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.