

SALUTATIONS

NEWSLETTER OF SALUS UNIVERSITY



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In Memoriam: Dr. Irving Bennett

Irving Bennett, OD '44, DSC (Hon.) '87, FAAO, an internationally renowned authority and publisher in the field of optometric economics and practice management, passed away Sept. 7, 2020, at the age of 97.

Dr. Bennett was named the [Pennsylvania College of Optometry](#) (PCO) Alumnus of the Year in 1961, and served on the Board of Trustees from 1977 to 1980. Thanks to Dr. Bennett's generous support and commitment to educating students and practitioners in the business aspects of the practice of optometry, PCO was able to establish the Irving Bennett Business and Practice Management Center (now [Bennett Career Services Center](#)). In 1993, Dr. Bennett was appointed professor of Business and Practice Management at PCO. At PCO's 71st Commencement, Dr. Bennett received his Honorary Doctor of Science Degree, a special degree to recognize unusual merit, creative

leadership, or distinctive accomplishments in scholarship, arts and letters, individual professions or service to mankind of national or international significance.

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American Heritage Credit Union Makes \$10,000 Donation to LOFK

When American Heritage Credit Union president and CEO Bruce Foulke met with Salus president **Michael Mittelman, OD '80, MPH, MBA, FAAO, FACHE**, and was informed about the University's Looking Out for Kids (LOFK) initiative, he took special note.

"When I heard what Salus does for kids, I said to myself, 'Wow, we have to be part of that.' After that it was a no-brainer " said Foulke

In the continued spirit of the shared mission of helping children — and as part of its corporate mission of giving back to the community — American Heritage Credit Union recently made a \$10,000 donation to LOFK.



"For American Heritage, it's a part of our corporate social responsibility to be able to support other organizations that are doing good in the community," said Dorian Smith, senior vice president/business development for the credit union. "We're more than happy to support the efforts of Salus University and helping kids in the city of Philadelphia and throughout the region."

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Salus and Hampton University Form Historic New Partnerhip

Salus University Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) recently partnered with Hampton University, one of the nation's historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), to offer a new articulation agreement to address the shortage of Black student representation in optometric education and the healthcare profession. Paula Harmon Boone, OD, director of the National Optometric Association (NOA) "Visioning the Future" HBCU Mentorship Program and NOA trustee, helped initiate and lead the effort.



"It is important to recognize that the agreement comes at a time of the Black Lives Matter movement. The goal of the NOA has always been to advance the visual health of minority populations; to uphold the ideals of cultural diversity, equality and inclusivity in eyecare," Dr. Boone said. "The agreement between Salus PCO and Hampton University will help ensure comprehensive eye and vision healthcare, and decrease health disparities in the Black community as it increases the number of Black optometrists in the U.S."

Spearheading the partnership, Monae Kelsey, MS, associate director of Student Engagement and assistant director of Admissions, and Shanae Johnson, MBA, Admissions officer, started recruitment efforts with Hampton on behalf of Salus several years ago.

Mirroring the goal of the NOA's mentorship program to address the lack of diversity among optometry students, the partnership was established to give students who successfully complete a Bachelor of Science degree at Hampton a pathway to earn a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree through the 4+4 program at Salus PCO. Under the agreement, students enrolled in the program will receive both financial and academic assistance from the NOA, advisement from the Pre-Health program at Hampton and mentorship from a Salus PCO faculty advisor.

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