



**For immediate release:
March 2014**

**Contact: Alexis Abate
215-276-6158**

The Eye Institute of Salus University Receives \$50,000 Grant from Independence Blue Cross Foundation

Elkins Park, PA - The Eye Institute of Salus University (TEI) recently received a \$50,000 grant from the [Independence Blue Cross Foundation](#) (IBC) as part of the Foundation's [Blue Safety Net](#) program. This program provides funding to private, nonprofit community health centers in medically underserved areas offering access to quality care. The grant will be used to provide comprehensive vision and ocular health services to uninsured adults in Philadelphia.

According to Dr. Susan Oleszewski, chief of staff at Salus University, the IBC Foundation grant will greatly assist TEI in reaching this underserved population. "We are targeting patients with chronic systemic diseases with visual morbidity, such as diabetes and hypertension as well as those at risk for glaucoma," she said. The Eye Institute has partnered with several City Health Centers to identify uninsured adults with these conditions. Patients are currently being seen at The Eye Institute's Oak Lane and Falls Center locations. For more information, contact Dr. Susan Oleszewski at sueo@salus.edu or Alexis Abate at 215.276.6158.

###

About The Eye Institute (TEI)

The Eye Institute, since opening its doors in 1978, has been a valuable vision care resource for Philadelphia and all of the Delaware Valley. As the clinical practice of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO) at Salus University, TEI employs a multidisciplinary approach – with optometrists, ophthalmologists, opticians, optometric technicians, optometric interns (trainees) and other health care professionals working together to provide total vision care for nearly 50,000 patients annually. The Eye Institute has locations in Oak Lane, East Falls and Chestnut Hill.

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, Public Health, Education and Rehabilitation for the Blind and Visually Impaired, Biomedicine and Occupational Therapy. There are more than 1,000 students, including PhD candidates, and more than 10,000 alumni worldwide. For more information, please visit www.salus.edu.

About the Independence Blue Cross Foundation

The Independence Blue Cross Foundation is a charitable, private foundation, whose mission is leading solutions for a healthier community. The foundation targets the following areas of impact:

- **Securing the Blue Safety Net:** Supporting private, nonprofit community health center clinics that provide access to quality, affordable healthcare in medically underserved areas.

- **Bolstering the Health Care Workforce:** Strengthening the nursing, primary care, and allied health workforce through education, career development, and research.
- **Addressing Health Priorities:** Collaborating with wellness partners to tackle the region's most pressing health challenges; currently combating the obesity epidemic through the IBC Foundation Healthy Futures Initiative.
- **Building healthy communities:** Partnering with community leaders and programs to address community health and wellness needs.

Learn more by visiting our website: www.ibxfoundation.org. Connect with the Independence Blue Cross Foundation on Twitter at **@ibxfd**