



DREXEL UNIVERSITY

Pennsylvania College of Optometry

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Dr. Josephine Ibironke Named Dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry

Elkins Park, Pa. – Following a national search, Drexel University president and provost announced Josephine Ibironke, OD, MPH, FAAO, as dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), effective Sept. 15, 2025.

As a founding faculty member of the University of Pikeville's Kentucky College of Optometry (KYCO), Dr. Ibironke co-developed the college's didactic and clinical pediatric optometry curriculum and created its Leadership in Healthcare course sequence, all while serving as a trusted advisor to students. These learner-focused innovations have become signature elements of KYCO's program and reflect Dr. Ibironke's commitment to developing compassionate, practice-ready clinicians.

Dr. Ibironke currently serves as associate dean of professional engagement and professor at KYCO, where she oversees residencies, continuing education, international partnerships, community outreach, and career development pipelines that span the student life cycle. Under her leadership, KYCO has experienced significant enrollment growth and a substantial expansion of clinical opportunities for students. She was instrumental in launching the KYCO Vision Initiative, which provides comprehensive screenings for every third grader in the region.

As a 2003 alumna of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), Dr. Ibironke brings a unique perspective to her new role as dean. She earned a Doctor of Optometry and Bachelor of Science degree from PCO, completed a residency in Binocular Vision and Pediatric Optometry at The Eye Institute, and later received a Master of Public Health from the Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health.

Her appointment coincides with the July 2025 merger of Salus University and PCO into Drexel, which strengthens Drexel's growing health science ecosystem. As dean, Dr. Ibironke will guide PCO's full integration into the University, foster interdisciplinary collaborations across Drexel, and accelerate PCO's more than a century-long mission of preparing optometrists to tackle society's most pressing vision health challenges.

About Drexel University

Drexel University is a comprehensive global R1-level research university and experiential learning leader that combines academic rigor with one of the nation's premier cooperative education programs. Drexel integrates education, scholarship,

diverse partnerships, and our global community to address society's most pressing challenges through an inclusive learning environment, immersive learning, external partnerships, transdisciplinary and applied research, and creative activity.

About the Pennsylvania College of Optometry

The Pennsylvania College of Optometry on the Drexel University, Elkins Park Campus has pioneered standard-setting innovation in optometric education since 1919. A diversified, globally recognized, professional academic center of learning, it is now a standalone college at Drexel University, upon approval from the U.S. Department of Education in July 2025. For more information, visit [Drexel.edu/elkinspark/PCO](https://drexel.edu/elkinspark/PCO).

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