

December 2025



Full Circle Journey: PCO Alum Josephine Ibironke is New Dean

When **Josephine Ibironke, OD '03, Resident '04, MPH, FAAO**, was a student at the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO), she worked for the note-taking service (NTS) on campus. She would take notes in class, edit them, and then copy and distribute them to students' mailboxes. As the new dean of her alma mater, she's now come full circle, rising from the copy room to the C-suite. PCO, she said, is where futures are made.

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No More Mixed Signals: Life-Changing Care at TEI

For a time, **Brooke Krueemmling, PhD, COMS**, feared the day she might get a phone call saying one of her clients, Joseph Coger, had been hit by a car.

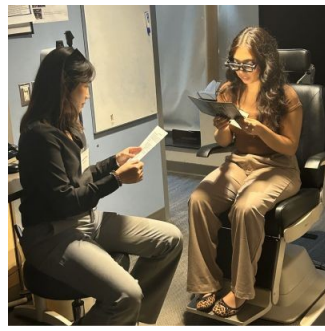
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Eyes on Boston: PCO Shines at Academy 2025

In true Boston fashion—cobblestone charm, fall colors, and clam chowder—the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) 2025 delivered an unforgettable experience.

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Optometry Up Close

The Optometry Learning Experience (OLE) program offers participants the opportunity to investigate the academic study associated with the Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree programs



Groundbreaking study

There's some research to support the theory that individuals experiencing concussion-related vision problems benefit from starting vision therapy immediately, rather than waiting.



Step Up for Stand Down

Seven students in the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)** at Drexel University were part of the Stand Down of South Jersey, providing care to homeless and at-risk veterans.

In Memoriam

Edward S. "Ned" Wicks, OD '65, passed away at his home in Florida on June 25, 2025, at the age of 85.

The son of the late **Edward B. Wicks, OD '35**, and the late Helen (Smiles) Wicks, he grew up in West Pittston, Pennsylvania. He married Barbara Armstrong in 1999 and they lived in Dalton, Pennsylvania, and Fort Myers, Florida. After graduating from West Pittston High School, he attended Bucknell University and the Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO). He opened a practice in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania, in 1965 and after 24 years, joined Northeastern Eye Institute in Scranton, Pennsylvania, for another 16 years before retiring. He was a member and president of the Northeast Optometric Association.

I. William Collins, OD '47 - who, alongside his wife Suzanne, established the I. William Collins Contact Lens Science Award in 2021 to benefit students at the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)**, Drexel University - passed away on May 27, 2025, at his home in Sarasota, Florida. He was 98.

Dr. Collins started his own practice in 1958 in Pottstown. By the mid-1980s, he had become frustrated that commercial eyeglass companies were receiving discounts the smaller private practices couldn't get from manufacturers. So, he rallied 18 fellow optometrists to form The Source Buying Group, which grew into a thriving business that eventually would feature 800 members in Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware. [Read More.](#)

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