

PCO is Creating New Pathways, Expanding Opportunities

Drexel's Bachelor of Science/Doctor of Optometry **(BS/OD) Early Assurance Program** offers high-achieving first-year applicants a unique opportunity to begin their journey toward a career in optometry. Combining the BS in Biological Sciences with a clear path to a Doctor of Optometry (OD) degree, the program is designed for students with strong academic records and a passion for healthcare.



Offered through Drexel's College of Arts and Sciences' Department of Biology and the **Pennsylvania College of Optometry (PCO)**, this competitive program provides a structured pathway from undergraduate study to professional training in optometry. This pathway represents an important first step in adding value to PCO by combining Drexel's strengths in undergraduate education with PCO's expertise in optometric education and clinical training, expanding opportunities for students.

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Expanding PCO's Community Impact Through School-Based Vision Care



Head Start Program Reboot Benefits Children and the Community

PCO faculty helped to revive the College's involvement with Head Start programs in the Philadelphia School District, renewing an important partnership that had been on a recent hiatus. [Read More](#)

Advancing Vision Care Through the School Vision Programs

Many children in the Philadelphia area struggle with access to affordable, high quality healthcare, including comprehensive eye exams and regular

eye health screenings essential for identifying and treating vision problems early.

PCO's clinical facility, The Eye Institute (TEI), is one of only a few organizations in Philadelphia working to fill this void in care by providing vision screenings, eyeglasses, and eye health exams for underserved children in the community. [Read More](#)



**Blaustein Award Winners
Named at Residents Day**

Kayla Eshbaugh, OD, Resident '26, and Dhruvi Patel, OD, Resident '26, were both presented with the 2026 Bernard Blaustein Resident of the Year Awards during Residents Day.

Dr. Patel was selected as the on-campus residency winner from The Eye Institute (TEI), where she is completing her second year in the Neuro-Ophthalmic Disease residency. Dr. Eshbaugh was named the off-campus affiliated program's residency recipient.

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**PCO Faculty Member on the
Front Lines of Improving Eye
Care Across the World**

During his time at PCO in the mid-1980s, **Jeffrey L. Weaver, OD '85, MBA, MS, FFAO,** joined a Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH) International mission trip to Haiti. This experience would leave him with a lasting impression.

Now, 40 years later, Dr. Weaver is the vice president of VOSH/International.

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**Optometry's Meeting
Wrap Up**

Faculty, staff, students, and alumni of PCO joined thousands of eye care professionals and corporate partners for Optometry's Meeting in Phoenix earlier this summer.

A highlight of the conference was when **Mitchell Scheiman, OD, PhD '16, FFAO, FCOVD,** received the **Herbert Wertheim Award**, one of the profession's most prestigious honors.



**Myopia 'Change
Agent'**

Noor Alami '27OD is the first student from PCO to be named a Student Change Agent by the Myopia Collective.

The initiative, led by the American Optometric Association (AOA) and CooperVision, recognizes emerging leaders dedicated to advancing awareness and management of childhood myopia.

[Read more](#)



Where Are They Now

One would think that **Megan Parker, OD '01,** and **Adam Parker, OD '02,** would have crossed paths while both were students at PCO.

They were only a year apart in school, but they had no knowledge of each other and didn't actually meet until after they had completed their respective Doctor of Optometry degrees and moved to Richmond, Virginia.

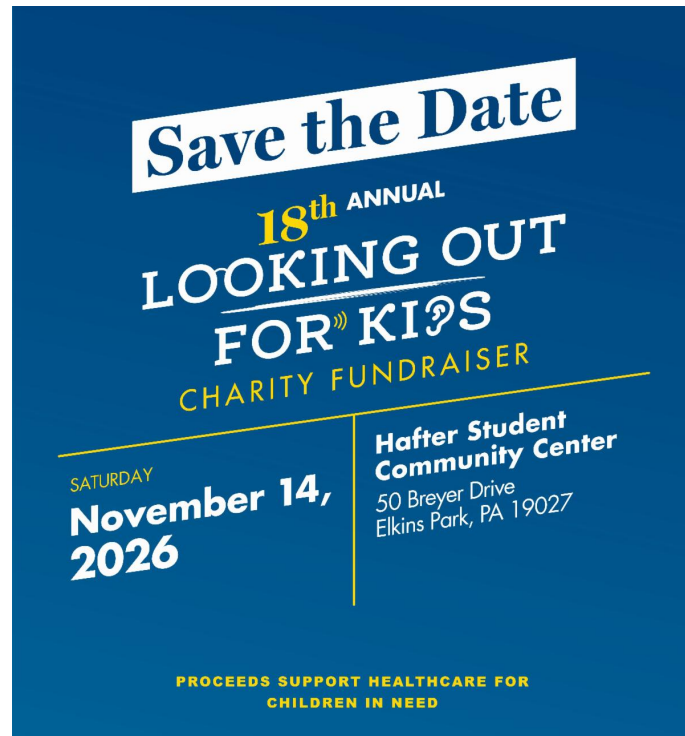
[Read more](#)

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Give the Gift of Sight

For nearly two decades, the ***Looking Out for Kids*** vision care initiative has helped children across the Philadelphia region access essential vision care and eyeglasses to help transform how they learn, grow, and see the world and the classroom.

Since 2007, every dollar raised through this annual event has supported comprehensive eye care for children who need it most. Join us on **Saturday, Nov. 14, 2026, at the Hafter Student Center** and help bring clearer vision and brighter futures to children in need. [More info here.](#)



[Click here to make a donation.](#)



Register for PCO's Alumni and Friends Reception at the Academy

PCO Dean **Josephine O. Ibironke, OD '03, Resident '04, MPH, FAAO**, invites alumni and friends for an evening of connection and celebration on **October 2, from 7:00-9:00 p.m.** at the **Anaheim Marriott**.

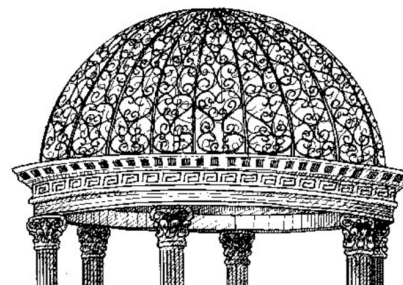
What's New With You?

Have news to share with your PCO alumni community? We'd love to hear it!

Send us your class notes, career milestones, awards, promotions, new businesses, obituaries, personal updates - or any other tidbits you'd like to share with fellow alumni and friends.

Have a story to tell? Send it our way!
Email your news to Salus_communications@drexel.edu.

WE SALUTE



[Click here to read more about PCO World](#)

