2013 Optometric Education Diversity Mini-Grant Program

This is the ninth year ASCO has offered the Optometric Education Diversity Mini-Grant Program. The goal of the program is to develop and implement activities/programs that are designed to recruit and/or retain underrepresented minority students*, financially disadvantaged students, and first-generation college students. Programs may include, but are not limited to, summer bridge programs for undergraduate students, mentoring and guidance programs for first-year optometry students, and partnerships with organizations, high schools, community colleges and undergraduate programs to promote optometry as a career among underrepresented groups. Funding is being provided by The Vision Care Institute, LLC, Luxottica Retail, and Alcon.

Priority for funding will be given to NEW projects/programs. Funding may also be available for existing programs that have a proven track record of success in previous years. The limit for funding is $5,000.

The ASCO Diversity and Cultural Competency Committee will review applications based on the following criteria:

- The project enhances the recruitment and retention of “underrepresented” and other disadvantaged students.
- The project has a sound conceptual framework that can be identified as strengthening the institution’s commitment to diversity.
- The project is related to issues of diversity and reflects the mission of ASCO and the college/school to diversify the student bodies of our institutions and the profession.
- The project supports diversity/multiculturalism as a core value in the particular school or college of optometry.

* Underrepresented in Optometry refers to those racial and ethnic population that are underrepresented in the optometric profession relative to their numbers in the general population.

- The interpretation of “underrepresented” may be regional or local; consequently, the identification of “underrepresented” groups might vary geographically.
- The definition allows for adding and/or removing underrepresented groups based on the changing demographics of society and the profession.

APPLICATION PROCESS

Submit a completed application by the deadline: April 1, 2013
I. **COVER SHEET**
   In a cover letter, include the institution’s name, project title and coordinator(s) with contact information.

II. **PROJECT SUMMARY AND NARRATIVE**
   Provide a description of the proposed project goals and objectives along with a timeline, target audience, and a description of how this program will assist in the recruitment and/or retention of underrepresented minority students.

   a. The title and purpose of the project, describing specifically the objectives and goals
   b. Project plan
   c. Proposed start date and time frame
   d. Summary of how the proposals meets the criteria listed above
   e. List experts, if any, his/her name, title, and organizational affiliation
   f. Provide outcomes if the project/program has received diversity mini-grant funding in previous years and how these outcomes are measured

III. **DETAILED PROPOSED BUDGET (See below for restrictions):**
   Please provide an itemized budget with justification for each of the items listed.

IV. **SUMMARY REPORT (Completed within 30 days of the project’s completion)**
   Submit a narrative indicating the impact of the project via measurable objectives and how the project outcome assisted the long-term diversity goals of the school/college.

*Please note that:*
- The use of mini-grant funding is limited by the sponsors and can be used for expenses related to:
  - Educational expenses of the program
  - Expert(s) honorarium, travel and accommodations
  - Audiovisual support and handout production
  - Publicity
  - Ordinary business expenses, including the planning or general overhead for the program, food, the rental space, travel, and lodging

*For more information:*
Carol Brubaker
Manager, Professional Affairs
Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry
cbrubaker@opted.org