



Resolution

**HONORING LARRY J. DAVIS, OD, FAAO,
AS HE RETIRES FROM THE ASCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND AS
DEAN OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI – ST. LOUIS
COLLEGE OF OPTOMETRY**

Whereas, Dr. Larry Davis has been an outstanding leader in optometric education and the profession of optometry throughout his thirty-five-year career; and

Whereas, Following graduation from the Indiana University School of Optometry and completion of the Residency Program in Cornea and Contact Lenses at the University of Missouri – St. Louis College of Optometry, Dr. Davis served for five years as a faculty member in the Department of Ophthalmology at the Saint Louis University School of Medicine, where he also served as Director of the Contact Lens Service; and

Whereas, Dr. Davis' dedication to improving the health of patients and communities is evident through his academic specialization in cornea, contact lenses and anterior segment ocular disease; he is a Diplomate of the American Academy of Optometry's Section on Cornea, Contact Lenses, and Refractive Technologies; he was a member of the Collaborative Longitudinal Evaluation of Keratoconus (CLEK) Study Group and Participating Clinic Principal Investigator in this landmark research project funded by the National Eye Institute; and, he has authored or co-authored more than 100 scientific papers, abstracts, and book chapters; and

Whereas, Optometric education and the profession have benefitted enormously from Dr. Davis' leadership as Dean of the University of Missouri – St. Louis College of Optometry from 2002 to 2022, preceded by his pivotal transitional efforts as Interim Dean; and

Whereas, Dr. Davis has served as an effective mentor to the College's faculty, staff and students. Under his leadership as Dean, the faculty revised its governance, the College strategic plan, the curriculum, and measures for program outcomes.

Dr. Davis has advanced financial and capital improvement initiatives, totaling more than \$20 million, to improve the College's facilities, including renovations to the Lindell Eye Center in Midtown Saint Louis, updates to classroom and laboratories in Marillac Hall, and a three-phase plan for new construction to co-locate the Colleges of Nursing and Optometry, including the new UMSL Patient Care Center that provides opportunities to expand health care services through community partnerships. In addition, Dr. Davis has helped to establish sixteen new endowment funds for the College and launch a major gifts initiative in support of the UMSL Patient Care Center; and

Whereas, Dr. Davis has distinguished himself in a variety of important leadership roles, including service as President of the St. Louis Optometric Society from 1998 - 1999; as a Member of the Board of Directors of the Heart of America Contact Lens Society, including President from 2011 - 2012; and, as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Board of Examiners in Optometry from 2006 - 2014, including President in 2011; and

Whereas, Dr. Davis' contributions and accomplishments have been acknowledged by his students and colleagues through his recognition as Outstanding Optometric Educator of the Year by students at University of Missouri - St. Louis College of Optometry, as Optometrist of the Year and Distinguished Optometrist of the Year by the St. Louis Optometric Society, and as a recipient of the Foley House Award by the Indiana University School of Optometry; and

Whereas, Dr. Davis served as the 2005 - 2006 President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry, in which his Presidential Initiative and lasting legacy is the establishment of ASCO's first Summer Institute for Faculty Development, a biennial initiative to develop and retain talented and dedicated colleagues as optometric educators; therefore be it

Resolved, that ASCO and its members sincerely thank Dr. Davis for his perpetual collegiality, professionalism, diplomacy, leadership, and significant dedicated contributions to optometry, optometric education, and ASCO; and be it further

Resolved, that the ASCO family extends its very best wishes to Dr. Davis and his family upon his retirement, as well as the sincere hope for much happiness and good health in the many years ahead.