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 Southern California College of Optometry

## News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Southern California College of Optometry Names New President**

FULLERTON, CA---The Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO) has named, Kevin L. Alexander, O.D., Ph.D., as its seventh president, effective July 1, 2008. Dr. Alexander, currently dean, Ferris State University, Michigan College of Optometry, Big Rapids, MI, assumes the presidency from, Lesley L. Walls, O.D., M.D., D.O.S., who is retiring after 11 years.

Dr. Alexander currently is serving as president of the American Optometric Association (AOA). His one-year term of leading the 35,000-member national optometric organization ends June 30, 2008.

"Experience and leadership in the areas of academe and the optometric profession are key assets that factored into the selection of Dr. Kevin Alexander as the next president of the Southern California College of Optometry," said the Chairman, Board of Trustees Charles A. Munson, C.P.A. "His experience as a dean at an optometric college and his years of leadership within organized optometry make him an excellent choice to work with our students, faculty and alumni in advancing the mission of SCCO. He and his wife, Carol, also an optometrist, will be wonderful additions to our great team."

Dr. Alexander has earned four degrees from The Ohio State University (OSU). They are: Bachelor of Science, June 1974; Doctor of Optometry, June 1976; Master of Science, Physiological Optics, August 1977; and Doctor of Philosophy, Physiological Optics, August 1979. He completed a Fellowship in Vitreo-Retinal Disease in 1995 at Retina Vitreous Associates affiliated with OSU.

"I am thrilled to have been named the President of the Southern California College of Optometry and eager to join the College Family as we take our institution to the next level of excellence," Dr. Alexander stated. "I look forward to working with the students, faculty and alumni in building upon the College's strong history of providing an excellent educational program, exceptional patient care, and outstanding leadership for the optometric profession."

Prior to his July 2000 start as dean of the optometry program at Ferris State University, Dr. Alexander practiced optometry in private and group settings. He also held faculty positions at The Ohio State University, College of Optometry. For many years he has shared his expertise in the area of ocular disease with optometrists and other health care providers through his publications and scientific papers and continuing education lectures.

As an optometrist, Dr. Alexander has actively served his profession beginning with his 1976 membership in the Ohio Optometric Association to his current volunteer position as president of the American Optometric Association, 2007–08. He has chaired or co-chaired numerous state and national committees including the AOA's 2005–06 series of summit meetings, Optometry 2020, that have outlined the preferred future for the profession.

SCCO's new president holds many honors and awards. Among the most notable are: The Ohio State University, College of Optometry H. Ward Ewalt Medal for Distinguished Service, 2007; Michigan Optometric Association Keyperson of the Year, 2002; Distinguished Practitioner, National Academies of Practice, 2000; Trustee, American Optometric Association, 1999–2004; Past President, Ohio Optometric Association, 1996; Outstanding Service Award, Ohio Optometric Association, 1992 and 1998; Ohio Optometric Association Warren Morris Optometrist of the Year, 1989; Outstanding Service Award, Epsilon Psi Epsilon, 1987; and The Ohio State University Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching, 1980.

Dr. Alexander's wife, Carol L. Alexander, O.D., is also an OSU graduate. She recently transferred her private optometric practice of 17 years in Sylvania, OH, to a recent graduate. The couple has two married children, a son, Nicholas, 28, a criminology student at OSU, and a daughter, Lindsay, 26, an optician. The Alexanders have three grandchildren with a fourth due in February.

Photo Caption: Dr. Kevin L. Alexander, named seventh president of the Southern California College of Optometry.

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