

Vibrant Seattle was the backdrop to the fall meeting of the Board of Directors of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO). During the Oct. 22 meeting, as a first step in implementing the President's Priorities set by Dr. Jennifer Smythe, members of the Board participated in a mini-workshop on best practices in interprofessional education (IPE) and collaborative practice. (See "[Board Members Participate in IPE Workshop.](#)")

Also at the meeting, the Board approved:

- the development of an online ASCO Residents Registry
- the application from the [Centro Escolar University College of Optometry](#) in Manila, Philippines, to become an ASCO Affiliate Member. (See "[ASCO Welcomes New Affiliate Member.](#)")
- a new "ASCO Awards Program" for 2014, including the establishment of a "Rising Star Award" to recognize a faculty member or administrator with less than 10 years of service who has made noteworthy contributions to ASCO or optometric education.

The Board received updates on:

- ASCO initiatives designed to increase and further develop a diverse and highly qualified optometry school applicant pool, including the production of a new video, the launch of a search engine optimization program, an undergraduate science student e-mail campaign, and an online Virtual Optometry Fair (See "[ASCO Holds First Virtual Optometry Fair.](#)")
- the success of the 2013 Summer Institute for Faculty Development and Future Faculty programs
- the challenges surrounding optometric research funding for the National Eye Institute and U.S. Department of Defense given the current political climate
- the latest news from corporate contributors Essilor ([www.essilor.com](http://www.essilor.com)) and Abbott Medical Optics ([www.abbottmedicaloptics.com](http://www.abbottmedicaloptics.com)) and how the developments could benefit optometric education.

In addition, Dr. Aurora Denial, Editor of ASCO's journal *Optometric Education*, presented the 2013 Dr. Lester Janoff Award for Writing Excellence. (See "[Winners of 2013 Dr. Lester Janoff Award for Writing Excellence Announced.](#)") Prior to adjourning the meeting, Dr. Linda Casser, who has been on the Board of Directors for five years, was presented with a special gift as a thank-you for her years of



*On behalf of the Board, ASCO President Dr. Jennifer Smythe, right, presents Dr. Linda Casser with a gift in recognition of her service and dedication to optometric education.*

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The Board of Directors will meet next in March 2014 on Amelia Island in Fernandina Beach, Fla.