

The Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice (IPECP) Committee continues to be an active component of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO).

At the November 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Optometry (AAO) in San Antonio, Texas, the members of the ASCO IPECP Committee served as speakers for a 2-hour Symposium of the Optometric Education Section entitled “Creating, Implementing, and Sustaining a Culture of Interprofessional Education (IPE) in Schools and Colleges of Optometry.” The components of the well-attended Symposium included:

- Why is this IPE Symposium Important?
- IPE in a University Setting
- IPE at a Single Purpose Institution
- An Administrator’s Perspective on IPE
- Panel Discussion: The Student Perspective on IPE

Given the location of the meeting, the Symposium included active participation from members of the University of the Incarnate Word (UIW) community. The UIW Provost Emerita provided the Administrator’s Perspective; UIW students from optometry, pharmacy, and physical therapy comprised the Student Panel; and, the UIW Associate Provost for Health Professions, Dean of the School of Physical Therapy, and Dean of the Feik School of Pharmacy attended as guests.

To complement the IPE Symposium, the ASCO IPECP Committee also conducted a Workshop entitled “Toolkits and Resources for Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Initiatives in Optometry.” The penultimate version of the ASCO IPE Toolkit, A Guide to Effective Interprofessional Education and Collaborative Practice Experiences in Optometric Education, was introduced at this Workshop. A unique feature of the ASCO IPE Toolkit, which is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2019, is that it will contain an IPE Exemplar Project from every ASCO member institution.

Consistent with its strategic plan, ASCO is actively exploring the formation of an IPE Special Interest Group (SIG). An informational meeting was conducted at the AAO Annual Meeting which was well attended by actively engaged participants. Completion of the ASCO SIG Application is actively underway.