

Japanese Proverb

“Vision without action is a daydream; action without vision is a nightmare.”

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

Eleanor Roosevelt

It's O.K. for Opticians to dream again, as long as it is not a day dream.

By Sam Johnson, ABOM, NCLE-AC

The quotes that are preceding this editorial comment speak very loudly. As an Optician who has over thirty-seven years in the industry, I have seen many things change and unfortunately many of them have not been necessarily to the benefit of the average doctor, average employer, average Optician, or the average consumer. There has been little hope for Opticians to expect the future to be brighter than the present. I hear many truly gifted and experienced Opticians call themselves dinosaurs because there are so few Opticians left who know Ophthalmic Optics. They talk about how most people who call themselves Opticians are really nothing more than glorified sales clerks. The real question is how did our profession get to where we are and how do we regain our rightful position as the industry experts in Ophthalmic Optics?

The current system of eyewear delivery to the public does not really work as well as it could to anyone's true advantage. This is true for doctors, employers, opticians, and the public.

Doctors and employers are struggling to keep their costs down and their patients and customers satisfied. They do not feel comfortable hiring an Optician at a respectable wage, because the standards for a person to call themselves an Optician are so variable and in many states very low and they know, that even if the person was successful in the prior position, they will need to be retrained, completely in many cases, before the newly hired Optician will be able to perform at a high level. Certification used to be a standard that would help them, but recently even certification is not a sign of an Optician's knowledge of Ophthalmic Optics.

Opticians are struggling to be considered a true profession. This might possibly be due to the fact that the average Optician working in any town USA is said to be a single mother of at least one child with only a high school education and uncertified. It is difficult for doctors to appreciate our academic credentials as professionals when they have eight years or more of post high school education and we have on average none.

The public is struggling to find someone who can help them understand why they are having difficulty seeing, what their doctor's refraction should do to help alleviate their vision problems, and what options they need to consider before they select their eyewear.

It is my opinion that doctors and employers need to come to the realization that having a highly trained and motivated opticians leads to fewer redos caused by Optician errors and to more satisfied patients and customers. When they come to this realization the demand for academic credentialed Opticians will increase substantially. The doctors of this world understand and respect academic credentials.

Therefore, It is my opinion the in the near future every Optician who hopes to be considered fully trained and educated will need to have earned at the very least academic credentials demonstrating a minimum of two years post high school education in the optical sciences.

If you agree with me and have a vision or a dream of a better future for you and your family then, you need to start now preparing for the future by beginning the academic education process as soon as possible. I have attached everything that you need to get started. Do it now! You will never be sorry that you became better educated. It is the best investment that you will ever make. You do not have to move closer to a college that offers the training because the training is online and can be done from the comfort of your home. The cost of NAIT program in Optical Science is considerably lower than most comparable online college technology programs found in the USA and it is considered to be the most successful Optical Science training program in North America. If you do not have the two-thousand dollar tuition fee, ROATx has made it possible to get an education loan through a major bank that has offices through out the USA.

There no longer is a good excuse for not earning academic credentials in Optical Science. Take action. Call Dave Forrest at 713-477-4900 for details or email us at info@roatx.org.

(See attachments)