

FUTURE OPTOMETRIST

April 2023



HI, FUTURE OPTOMETRISTS!

Welcome to the first Future Optometrist newsletter, created by [Black EyeCare Perspective](#) in partnership with [Transitions](#). Here we will provide information on the rewarding career of optometry as well as resources to help you prepare for optometry school. Long-time supporters of increasing diversity, equity and inclusion in optical. Transitions also partners with Black EyeCare Perspective for the [HBCU Light Intelligent Tour](#), visiting HBCUs nationwide to create more awareness about the profession and practice of optometry. Transitions also has a dedicated Diversity Advisory Board, made up of individuals in the optical industry and of the largest and fastest-growing minority demographic groups in the United States.

Message from Dr. [Darryl Glass](#), co-founder, Black EyeCare Perspective, and Dr. [Eunice Johnson](#), executive director, Black EyeCare Perspective

PRE-OPTOMETRY CLUB NEWS/DATES

Black EyeCare Perspective has the first nationally recognized [pre-optometry club](#) established to ensure not a single, potential, future Black student or optometrist is ignored, discouraged or disadvantaged.

Club Benefits Include:

- Mindfulness skills
- Community of support
- Professional preparation
- Leadership development
- Monthly meetings with industry leaders

Meetings are held on the 13th of every month, 7 p.m. CST / 8 p.m. EST on weekdays or 5 p.m. CST / 6 p.m. EST on weekends. May feature Dr. Romina Escalante.

We'd like to invite you to our Third Annual SIGNING DAY, on April 25, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. CST / 7:30 p.m. EST. SIGNING DAY is a celebration of the achievements of members who have gained acceptance into a school or college of optometry. Register for this year's event on Eventbrite. This is a night you don't want to miss!

Interested in becoming a member? Complete a membership profile at the link below.

[Join Today!](#)

WHY OPTOMETRY?

As an undergraduate student, you might be thinking to yourself, *Why should I pursue a career in the field of optometry?*

Transitions Diversity Advisory Board members are ready to help answer that question, offering their unique perspectives on the advantages of being an optometrist.

Hear from Diana Canto-Sims, OD, a practicing optometrist with over 20 years of optical experience, including opening her own practice with inclusivity front-of-mind. Dr. Canto-Sims is also the co-founder of Latinos en Optometry.



[Click to Play!](#)

TRENDING WITH TRANSITIONS

Check out Transitions' popular [Virtual Mirror](#) to see all the Transitions® lens colors and styles. The "Frame Removal" feature will allow you to try on frames and Transitions lenses without removing your prescription lenses. See how stylish you look in Transitions lenses at the link below!

[Try the Virtual Try-On!](#)

PAIR YOUR FAVORITE FRAMES WITH THE PERFECT LENS.

Introducing the Transitions® Virtual Try-On. [See how it works.](#)

Transitions



STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

We're featuring [Khaliah Knighten](#)! Khaliah graduated from Prairie View A&M University with a degree in chemistry and is now a student at Inter American University of Puerto Rico School of Optometry.

"When I joined Black EyeCare Perspective's Pre-optometry Club (BEPPOC) in 2020, I was a recent college graduate trying to find my footing during my gap year. I was studying for the Optometry Admissions Test for a second time and working full-time," said Khaliah. "BEPPOC provided me with so many resources, mentorship, a safe space, and camaraderie with students like myself with similar interests. I can't wait to see where the club is in the next five years and what I can contribute."

You can learn more about Khaliah by following her on social media under the handle [@_smartlee_pants](#).



OPTOMETRIST SPOTLIGHT

This month's spotlight features [Jacobi Cleaver, OD, FFAO](#), an optometrist specializing in community health, based in Spring, Texas, and Chief Program Officer of Black EyeCare Perspective, a position that allows him to serve as a mentor to aspiring optometrists.

Dr. Cleaver, originally from Odessa, Texas, attended the University of Houston's undergraduate program before attending Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University.

"My introduction to optometry via clubs and summer programs sparked my interest to pursue the field as a career," said Dr. Cleaver. "My advice to my 20-year-old self is that there are no shortcuts to success."

You can connect with Dr. Cleaver by sending him an email at jcleaver@blackeyecareperspective.com.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN THE WORLD OF OPTOMETRY?



OPTOMETRY ADMISSIONS TEST INFO

The [Optometry Admissions Test \(OAT\)](#), is a four-part exam accepted by all optometry programs in the U.S. and Canada.

Quick Facts:

- Administered year round
- Must wait 60 days between testing attempts
- Can take a maximum of four times during a 12-month period of time

Our Recommendations:

- Give yourself plenty of time to study for the OAT, a minimum of six months is suggested. There are opportunities for discounts and grants for testing materials and/or to offset the cost of the exam. Please reach out before registering.

- If possible, we recommend taking the exam during your junior year of college, giving yourself time to take the test once and retake it again if necessary before applying to an optometry program.

Receive 15% off OAT Booster, using code **BEPPREOPTOMETRY!**