VSP/AOF PRACTICE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

AWARD
VSP Global®, through the American Optometric Foundation (AOF), will make two awards of $4,000 each to two students entering their fourth year (graduating class of 2015). Each award carries $3,250 in scholarship money and a $750 travel grant to attend Academy 2014 Denver. The dates of Academy 2014 Denver are November 12 – 15, 2014. Award winners are to be selected based on the following:

CRITERIA
Demonstrated excellence
- Clinical Performance: Candidates must excel in delivering primary eye care services to clinical patients.
- Academic Performance: Candidates must have a grade point average that ranks in the top half of the class.

Commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry
- We suggest a scholarship committee select a pool of 5 business minded students who meet the clinical and academic standards then choose two award winners based on:
  - The student's commitment to enter the independent practice of optometry.
  - Participation in the private practice or practice management club on campus with special consideration given to students who have served a leadership role.
- At the discretion of the selection committee, the selection process may include a written essay that encompasses the independent practice goals of the applicant.

The VSP/AOF Practice Excellence Scholarship Program will be based on the above performance criteria only. Recipients shall not be restricted from receiving this award as a result of receiving other awards, scholarships or grants-in-aid.

VSP and the AOF follow the career choices of scholarship winners to determine the value of this substantial investment. We suggest that each school carefully follow the criteria and consider their selections to ensure this scholarship program continues in future years.

SELECTION DEADLINE
Award winners must be selected and names forward to the AOF by August 1, 2014.

(The deadline has been moved up so award winners can make arrangements to attend Academy 2014 Denver using their travel grants.)
AWARD DELIVERY/CEREMONIES:

- Once the AOF is notified of your school’s award winners, scholarship checks in the amount of $3,250 will be mailed. Checks will be made payable to the school that the award winner is attending.
- A travel grant check of $750 and an engraved plaque will be presented to each student at an awards reception to take place at Academy 2014 Denver.
- Schools are encouraged to also recognize students at award ceremonies held at your individual school.
- VSP scholarships at some schools are named memorial awards. Those honors will continue to be attached to the scholarships.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

- Students who have academic conflicts and cannot attend the Academy 2014 Denver may apply their travel grant to Academy 2015 New Orleans.

ENGRAVING:

- The AOF will provide individual plaques to the award winners. Please provide names (with careful spelling) by August 1, 2014 so we can have the plaques ready for Academy 2014 Denver.
- Email the information on award winners to:

  Tracy Kitts, Foundation Coordinator
  321.710.3936 or email to TracyK@aaopt.org

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