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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **OVER 85 SCHOOL NURSES GATHER FOR THE OREGON SCHOOL NURSE ASSOCIATION SPRING CONFERENCE**

**CANBY, OR, May 19, 2009** – Over 85 school nurses from across the State of Oregon recently gathered for the Oregon School Nurse Association’s Annual Spring Conference in Gladstone Oregon. This year’s conference was sponsored by the Opticians Association of Oregon (OAO) and focused on the often overlooked topic of eye health. Each attendee was given the opportunity to learn from two leading experts in the field of eye care and how it relates to the work being performed on a daily basis by school nurses.

Dr. Molly Cardenal, an Optometrist from Portland, OR, presented the essential steps for being prepared for an eye injury that may occur on the playground or in the classroom, while Carol E. Marusich, an Optometrist from Eugene, OR, discussed the important subject of vision and learning and how to identify a child that might have a vision issue and not a learning problem.

For the past three years, representatives from the Opticians Association of Oregon have attended the conference promoting vision screenings in schools. OAO has also collaborated with Prevent Blindness of America to help train volunteers to assist school nurses with eye screenings.

C. Dave Lien, President of the Opticians Association of Oregon stated, “Healthy eyes and vision are a pivotal component of every child’s development. All students should have their eyes examined regularly, as many vision issues and eye diseases can be recognized early and treated.”

If you would like to volunteer, help, or learn more about obtaining a vision screening for your local school, please contact the Opticians Association of Oregon via email at [optician@oregonoptician.org](mailto:optician@oregonoptician.org).

The Opticians Association of Oregon (OAO) was established to promote the advancement of the science and knowledge of opticianry in order to assist the optical dispensing industry in providing professional eye care services to the general public. Dispensing opticians are allied health professionals who fit eyeglasses or contact lenses, using prescriptions written by ophthalmologists or optometrists.

For more information about the Opticians Association of Oregon please contact the office at 1015 South Fir Court, Canby, Oregon 97013; Tel: (503) 263.5060; Email: [optician@oregonoptician.org](mailto:optician@oregonoptician.org); or visit the website at [www.oregonoptician.org](http://www.oregonoptician.org).

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