

My name is Saysha Blazier, this will serve as my letter of intent to run for the NYSOA Executive position of secretary. I have been involved in organized Optometry since serving as the president of the American Optometric Student Association in 2010. From 2012-2017 I was involved with the NJSOP chairing the membership and benefits committee and serving on the Board of Trustees. In 2018, my career and opportunities brought me back to NY, where I have served as metropolitan trustee for 2 years and this past year as treasurer to the NYSOA. While serving the state of NY, I have chaired the Innovations Annual Meeting Planning Committee as well as worked with our staff to get our CE PASS up and running.

In addition to my involvement at the state level and serving on the board of trustees, I have also been serving in the volunteer structure through AOA the past eight years. Most recently serving on the Leadership Development Committee, which has created The Leadership Institute, providing training and nurturing leadership skills in our young doctors nationwide. I wish to continue my dedication to the advancement of the profession and run for the position of secretary within the NYSOA.

I appreciate your consideration, and look forward to working with the dedicated doctors of Optometry across the state of NY!

Saysha M. Blazier, OD, FAAO
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LICENSES/CERTIFICATIONS

- New York State Doctor of Optometry: TUV 007694- June 2011- Includes therapeutic, diagnostic, and glaucoma certification.
- New Jersey State Doctor of Optometry: 270A00639500- July 2012. Includes therapeutic, diagnostic, glaucoma and oral certification.
- Cardio-Pulmonary Resuscitation, Bradley University: May 2005
- Re-certified, Southern California College of Optometry: October 2007, April 2010.
- Re-certified, State University of New York College of Optometry: July 2011.

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Associate Optometrist, Southshore Eyecare Associates: April 2019-PRESENT
- Associate Optometrist, Drs. Savoy, Siegel & Desai: November 2012-March 2019
- Director of Low Vision Services, Institute of Ophthalmology and Visual Science UM-DNJ: July 2012-May 2015
- Co-director & off site medical director Ocular Telemedicine Screening Program. July 2012-May 2015
- Assistant Ophthalmological Clinical Instructor New Jersey Medical School. July 2012-May 2015
- SUNY Assistant Clinical Instructor: July 2011-June 2012
- Vision Therapy/Binocular Vision Laboratory Teaching Assistant: February 2010-May 2010.
- Contact Lens Laboratory Teaching Assistant: November 2009-February 2010.
- Low Vision Assistant: Southern California College of Optometry Eye Care Center. Fullerton, CA. July 2008-May 2009.

EDUCATION

- Low Vision Rehabilitation/Ocular Disease residency. State University of New York College of Optometry/ Lighthouse International. July 2011-June 2012
- Doctor of Optometry. Southern California College of Optometry. August 2007–May 2011.
- Bachelor of Science. Bradley University. 2003–2007. Major: Cell and Molecular Biology, Minor; Psychology

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Healthy Eyes Advantage Ambassador OD- Greater NYC area: Dec 2020–PRESENT

- Testimony at the New Jersey State Senate and Assembly education committee hearings for Pediatric Comprehensive Eye Exam legislation: Jan-March 2019
- NorthJersey.com Article- 5 Ways to Save Your Kid's Eye Vision This Summer: July 2018
- Burlington County Times-New Jersey Must Prioritize children's vision: April 2018
- CBS Interview-Eye Problems may be to blame for children's learning, vision problems—October 2017
- News12 New Jersey TV segment: 12 to your Health-Academic Impact of Comprehensive Eye Exams—April 2017
- News12 New Jersey TV segment: 12 to your Health-Social Impact of Comprehensive Eye Exams—April 2017
- Kids See Success Non-profit Initiative—public awareness campaign importance children's vision. 2016—PRESENT
- ARVO Poster author: Retinal Imaging with novel handheld digital retinal camera. 2014
- ARVO Poster co-author: Fundus Autofluorescence Captured with a non-mydratic retinal camera in Vegetarians vs non-Vegetarians. 2014
- ARVO Poster co-author: Ultra-Structural SDOCT changes in patients with DMI and preclinical diseases. 2014
- ARVO Poster co-author: Utility of SD-OCT as a complimentary tool during ocular screening. 2014
- ARVO Poster co-author: Subclinical macular OCT changes in type 1 diabetic patients. 2014
- On-site director Ocular telemedicine screening at Friends for Life, Children with Diabetes Conference. Orlando, FL, July 2013.
- Fellowship American Academy of Optometry October 2012.
- Envision Vision Rehab Visibility Journal Publication co-author. Interdisciplinary co-management: an evolution of integrated vision rehabilitation and patient care: October 2010.
- Third Party Payers and State Legislator's Conference, Denver, CO: October 2010.
- Fall edition of Foresight Presidential Column: August 2009.
- NewOD Article author: July 2010.
- Remote Area Medical Optometric Volunteer, Los Angeles: April 2010.
- Spring edition of Foresight Presidential column: Feb 2010
- Fall edition of Foresight Article author: Aug 2009
- Special Olympics Optometric Volunteer: June 2009
- Spring edition of Foresight Article author: Feb 2009
- California Optometric Association Key-person Day, Sacramento CA: March 2009
- Honduras Medical Missions Trip Optometric Assistant: June 2008.
- Children's Health Fair Vision Screening: October 2007.

PROFESSIONAL LECTURES

- Bronx Lebanon Hospital System Lecture: Optical Principles and Low Vision Concepts. February 17, 2021.
- Grand round lectures to Ophthalmology residents: Introduction to contact lenses. Low Vision Rehabilitation. Retinoscopy & Refraction. Pediatric Low Vision. Vision Rehabilitation Therapy & Orthoptics. Aug 2012-May 2015
- Keynote speaker Western Regional Conference Oct 2011.
- SUNY COPE lecture. Dialogue through the Dark: Helping your patients navigate through Retinitis Pigmentosa.
- SUNY Educational lecture. Stargardt's Macular Degenerations: A case report & Retinal Regeneration: the future possibilities.
- Bi-weekly grand rounds presentation to the staff/employees @ Lighthouse International. 2011-2012
- COA Perimetry/Infectious Diseases/ Adjunctive testing Overview Course Instructor: October 2010.

EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Optometric Extern: Indian Health Services Hospital, Navajo reservation-Crownpoint, NM. February-May 2011.
- Optometric Extern: Navy Submarine Base. Groton, Connecticut. November 2010-February 2011.
- Optometric Extern: Virginia Eye Consultants Co-management. Norfolk, VA. August 2010-November 2010.
- Optometric Intern: Southern California College of Optometry Eye Care Center. Fullerton, CA. March 2009-August 2010.

LEADERSHIP

- Metropolitan Regional Trustee New York State Optometric Association Board of Trustee: May 2019--PRESENT
- American Optometric Association Leadership Development Committee: April 2018-PRESENT
- New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians Board of Trustee: December 2016--March 2019
- Membership and benefits committee chair New Jersey Society of Optometric Physicians: December 2017--March 2019
- American Optometric Association Health Promotions Committee: April 2015--April 2018

- American Optometric Student Association Past President: March 2011–February 2012
- American Optometric Student Association National President: January 2010–February 2011.
- National Board of Examiners in Optometry National Liaison: January 2010–February 2011.
- Class of 2011 Historian, Southern California College of Optometry: April 2008–Present
- Western Regional Conference Event co-coordinator: Sept 2008.
- Curriculum Planning Committee Student Representative, Southern California College of Optometry: Sept 2008-June 2009.
- American Optometric Student Association Trustee (AOSA Board of Trustees & SCCO SA Board): November 2008-January 2010.
- American Optometric Student Association Trustee-elect (AOSA Board of Trustees & SCCO SA Board): March 2008-Nov 2008.
- Admissions Policy Committee Student Representative, Southern California College of Optometry: August 2007-Sept 2008.

SCHOLARSHIPS/AWARDS

- NJSOP Presidential Special Recognition Award–December 2018
- NJSOP Young Optometrist of the Year–October 2015
- Al Dennis Endowed Leadership Scholarship- May 2011.
- Michal G. Harris Academy Scholarship- November 2010.
- Dr. Joe W. Dobbs Excellence in Low Vision Endowed Scholarship- August 2010.
- Dr. Geraldine J. Sherman Leadership Memorial Endowed Scholarship- August 2010.
- Misseo dei Service Endowed Scholarship-August 2010.
- Dr. Donald E. Jarnagin endowed leadership scholarship- August 2009.
- WICHE Scholarship recipient, Southern California College of Optometry: 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010.
- Deans List, Bradley University: May 2005-May 2007.
- Biological Research Grant, Bradley University: Spring 2006, Fall 2007.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Autism Speaks Annual Walk 2015–PRESENT
- Foundation Fighting Blindness Walk Team Co-captain NYC: April 2012
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Ontario OR: June 2011
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Los Alamitos CA: July 2010.
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Los Alamitos CA: July 2009.
- Foundation Fighting Blindness Walk Team Co-captain, Fullerton CA: June 2009.
- Honduran Medical Mission: June 2008

- Children's Hospital of Orange County Disneyland Resort Walk in the Park: October 2007.
- Children's Home monthly volunteer, Peoria IL: Aug 2006-July 2007.
- New Orleans Hurricane Relief Trip: March 2007.
- American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Bradley University IL: March 2006.
- Prevent Child Abuse America, week long fundraising events each spring: 2003-2007.