



**Prevent
Blindness**

Person of Vision

**2025 PREVENT BLINDNESS
PERSON OF VISION DINNER**



JOIN US IN HONORING
Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO
President and CEO
New England College of Optometry

Wednesday, February 19, 2025
Hyatt Regency | Orlando, Florida

Person of Vision - Evening Program

Dear Friends,

Thank you for joining us tonight at the 2025 Prevent Blindness Person of Vision (POV) Award Ceremony, our first one in Orlando, Florida. We are honored to celebrate Howard Purcell, O.D., FAAO, New England College of Optometry President and CEO, as this year's Person of Vision, in recognition of his leadership to eyecare professionals and dedication to the vision industry.

This evening's celebration is made possible by the generous support of our sponsors and donors. Together, we understand the importance of protecting and preserving vision. Your contributions, given in honor of Dr. Purcell, will support vital outreach programs for those at risk of vision loss, provide quality vision screenings for children, and strengthen advocacy efforts to ensure more people have access to essential eye care.

Thank you for your generosity and commitment. Special appreciation goes to the 2025 POV committee members and Prevent Blindness staff for their dedication in making this event possible. On behalf of Prevent Blindness, we are grateful for your presence as we celebrate Dr. Purcell and the shared mission of preserving sight for all.

There will be opportunities to donate in support of Prevent Blindness and its mission throughout the evening.

Maureen Cavanagh
2025 Person of Vision Committee Chair

Welcome

Jeff Todd
Prevent Blindness
President & CEO

Master of Ceremonies

Maureen Cavanagh
Advancing Eyecare

Mission Speaker

Tammy Joseph
ASPECT Participant

Guest Speakers

Fabrizio Uguzzoni
EssilorLuxottica
President of Americas

Bryan Pinciario
Youngstown Twin Labs
Consulting & Investments LLC
Founder & CEO

Video Message from Jean Carrier

EssilorLuxottica
Former COO

Award Presentation

Marc Ferrara
CEO, Information Services
Jobson Medical Information

Award Acceptance

Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO
President & CEO
New England College of Optometry

Nightcap Reception

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CONGRATULATIONS
Howard Purcell
2025 PERSON OF VISION



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EssilorLuxottica congratulates
Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO, on being
honored as Prevent Blindness'
Person of Vision 2025



EssilorLuxottica

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Congratulations!

Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO

New England College of Optometry President and CEO

2025 Prevent Blindness Person of Vision

EyeMed Vision Care® applauds Dr. Howard Purcell for his ongoing dedication and leadership in vision and eye health.

Tonight, we are honored to have the following student leaders and future optometrists from New England College of Optometry join us as our guests in celebration of their president.

NECO student leaders in attendance include:

- Michelle Shang, 3rd year
Executive Student Council President
- Brynn Johnson, 3rd year
OD 2026 Class President
- Jacob Ng, 3rd year
Executive Student Council Vice President
- Carissa Fleming, 4th year
AOA PAC Student Task Force Representative for the East Coast
- Isabella Tarasuk, 3rd year
Executive Student Council Clubs and Media Coordinator

EyeMed is proud to support Prevent Blindness in its mission to prevent blindness and preserve sight.

**eye
Med**



Congratulations to Dr. Howard Purcell from your “Friends of Essilor!”

**Rick Gadd, Millicent Knight,
Pete Lothes, Kevin Rupp**

**Bob Colucci, Glen Funk, Holy Gillentine,
Alan Glazier, David Milan, Barbara Piper,
Kathy Rismiller, Holly Rush**

Carl Bracy, Jean Carrier, Maureen Cavanagh, Greg Ericson,
Bart Foster, Ellen Haag, Sherianne James, Mike Nathe,
Steve Nussbaumer, Mike O’Neil, John Walborn



Friends of Essilor

Congratulations

to Dr. Purcell on your many years
of visionary leadership!



Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO

President & CEO,
New England College of Optometry

From your friends at

Jobson
Optical Group

Dr. Purcell,

**You are a professional,
polite, and amazing
person who absolutely
deserves this award!**

-Anne Kavanagh

20/20

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VISION MANAGEMENT

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& CONTACT LENSES

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of OPTHALMOLOGY

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of OPTOMETRY

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Review
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WOMEN IN OPTOMETRY

**To Howard Purcell,
a priceless man
of vision!**

From,
The Marco Family Foundation,
David and Julie Marco



Congratulations
to

Dr. Howard Purcell

on this well-deserved honor!

We salute you and
Prevent Blindness for
all you do!

MATCH
EYEWEAR



CONGRATULATIONS, **DR. HOWARD PURCELL!**

*Recipient of the Prevent Blindness 2025
Person of Vision Award*

MyEyeDr. honors your dedication and many contributions to the eyecare industry, along with your support for Prevent Blindness's mission to preserve sight.

Thank you for your vision and inspiration.



NECO | New England
College of Optometry



The faculty, staff, and students at New England College of Optometry offer sincere congratulations to our President and CEO, **Dr. Howard Purcell**, on receiving the 2025 Person of Vision Award presented by Prevent Blindness.

We are NECO Proud!



Congratulations to 2025 Person of Vision Honoree

Howard Purcell, O.D.

who has throughout his career supported
the vision industry like no other.



*You are
spectacular!*

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CONGRATULATES

**Howard
Purcell, OD, FAAO**

on being named the
2025 Person of Vision!

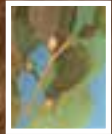
Your friends at PECAA
celebrate you, your
unwavering dedication to
advancing eye health and your
extensive contributions to the
optometric profession. Your
tireless advocacy has truly
made a difference, and your
remarkable career inspires us all.



Extending heartfelt congratulations and
warm wishes from the PECAA team!

pecaa.com

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west.visionexpo.com

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Orange County Convention Center, Orlando FL
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Visit us at Vision Expo East. Booth P539

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE

2025 PREVENT BLINDNESS

**PERSON OF
VISION**

**HOWARD PURCELL,
OD, FAAO**

VSP Vision™ is honored to continue supporting Prevent Blindness in its work to champion healthy vision for a healthy life.

vsp vision.

vspvision.com



Congratulations

Howard Purcell

on receiving the 2025 Prevent Blindness
Person of Vision Award

FROM YOUR FRIENDS AT

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CONGRATULATIONS

DEFOCUS
MEDIA

Dr. Howard Purcell



Congratulations on receiving the 2025 Person of Vision Award! Your unwavering commitment to increasing diversity, fostering real conversations, and uplifting the eyecare profession has made a profound and lasting impact.

Thank you for your partnership with **Black EyeCare Perspective** and **Defocus Media**, which has been instrumental in driving meaningful change and inspiring progress throughout the industry.

Warm regards,
Dr. Darryl Glover



The McGee Group is proud to sponsor **Prevent Blindness** in their sight-saving mission to prevent blindness and preserve vision. Together, we are committed to clearer vision for all.

Congratulations to **HOWARD PURCELL, OD, FAAO** for being recognized as the **2025 Person of Vision**.

www.mcgeegroup.com



So proud to call you Person of Vision. Always the most proud to call you Pop, Dad, and husband. We love you!

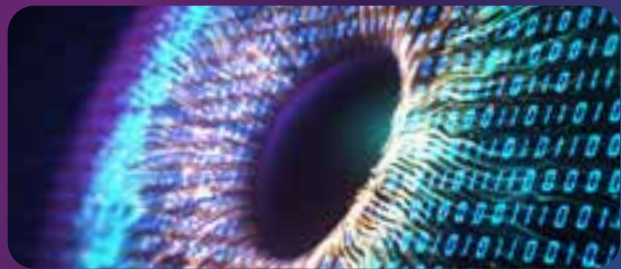


Congratulations to **Howard Purcell, OD, President & CEO of The New England College of Optometry**, 2025 Prevent Blindness Person of Vision!

Thank you for your leadership and dedication to the vision industry.



Join today at opticalwomen.com



Topcon Healthcare, Inc. Congratulates

Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO

President and CEO | New England College of Optometry

on being this year's Person of Vision.



Thank you to the following for supporting 2025 Prevent Blindness Person of Vision gala, honoring Dr. Howard Purcell:

Marge Axelrad

INVISION

Jeff Todd

The Orlando Ruiz Family

In Honor of Dr. Howard Purcell

Tonight, we honor Howard—visionary, leader, and unwavering advocate for Optometry. His dedication leaves an enduring impact on the institutions he serves and the future of the profession.

Howard, I value the friendship and support we've shared for over two decades and am grateful for all that you've done to inspire progress and excellence.

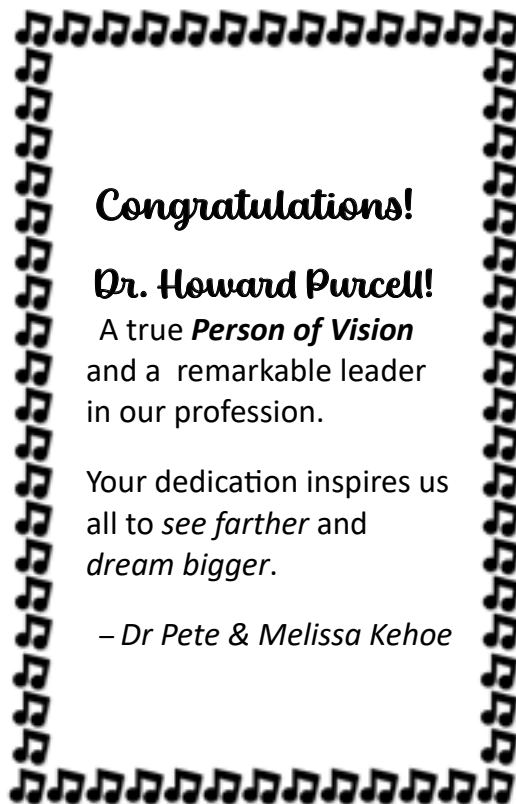
—Alan N Glazier, OD, FAAO, Dipl., ABO

CONGRATULATIONS DR. HOWARD PURCELL



Thank you for your numerous contributions to the field of optometry and to the eye care industry. You have been a tremendous trailblazer, and I am honored to have followed the path you paved for a significant part of my career!

All the best,
Millicent Knight, OD, DHL, FAAO,
FAARM, FNAP



Congratulations!

Dr. Howard Purcell!

A true *Person of Vision* and a remarkable leader in our profession.

Your dedication inspires us all to *see farther* and *dream bigger*.

—Dr Pete & Melissa Kehoe



Our mission is to prevent blindness and preserve sight.



2025 Person of Vision Committee

THANK YOU!

Maureen Cavanagh

Chair

Marge Axelrad

Editorial Director Emeritus

Vision Monday

Deb Bulken

Luxottica Wholesale

Dr. Gary Chu

New England College of Optometry

Marc Ferrara

Jobson Medical Information

Rick Gadd

Catalyst Health Group

Dr. Peter Kehoe

EyeMed

Jim McGrann

Advancing Eyecare

Dr. Millicent Knight

Integrative Eye and Wellness

Jamie Shyer

Zyloware

SAVE THE DATE

17th Annual Swing Fore Sight



Wednesday, September 17, 2025
Bali Hai Golf Club | Las Vegas

7:00 am shotgun start



**Prevent
Blindness**
Swing Fore Sight

Prevent Blindness Recognizes Howard Purcell, OD, FAAO as the 2025 Person of Vision

Howard Purcell, O.D., F.A.A.O., Diplomate and FNAP has been President and CEO of the New England College of Optometry (NECO) since July 2018. Before assuming his leadership role at NECO, he served as Senior Vice President at Essilor of America and Senior Director at Johnson and Johnson Vision Care. A second generation graduate of the New England College of Optometry, Dr. Purcell also participated in a group optometric practice for eleven years with his father in Miami Beach, FL.

Beginning in June 1991, Dr. Purcell joined the faculty of Nova Southeastern University College of Optometry. During his career at the college, he was a principle in the development of the Department of Cornea and Contact Lenses. Reaching the rank of Associate Professor, Dr. Purcell was responsible for both the didactic and clinical components of the program, serving as the Deputy Dean of the college.

Dr. Purcell is a Diplomate in the Cornea, Contact Lenses and Refractive Technologies Section of the American Academy of Optometry

His energetic and enthusiastic style has made Dr. Purcell a popular lecturer internationally. Purcell's unique philosophies and practices have often attracted the media to focus attention on current optometric issues and research in the industry.

All proceeds from the event support the mission
and programs of Prevent Blindness.

Help us continue our sight-saving work. Please donate today:



PreventBlindness.org/donate