



**WINNER OF LARRY J. ALEXANDER AWARD ANNOUNCED**

***Dr. Curtis Ono is the recipient of the AACO's highest honor which recognizes an influential Optometrist that has had a profound impact in the field of Optometry.***

Milwaukee, WI – August 3, 2020 - The American Association of Corporate Optometrists is proud to announce Dr. Curtis Ono, OD, has been named the 2020 recipient of the prestigious Larry J. Alexander Award. Dr. Ono is a practicing optometrist and co-owner of Puget Sound Eye Care in Seattle and Bellevue, Washington.

Each year AACO appoints the association's highest honor to an influential Optometrist that has had a profound impact in the field of Optometry. In 2019 the award was renamed to the Larry J. Alexander Award in honor of Dr. Larry Alexander (1948-2016). Dr. Alexander was an outstanding scholar, researcher, author, and Optometrist who influenced modern Optometry practice. Dr. Alexander was the association's first award recipient in 2014.

"The American Association of Corporate Optometry is pleased to honor Dr. Ono's tireless commitment to quality eye care for all of his patients," said Dr. Vincent Facchiano, OD, FAAO, AACO President. "This award recognizes Dr. Ono's passion for the advancement of his profession, and his dedication to his community at large," Dr. Facchiano continued.

Dr. Ono has extensive experience as a volunteer in Optometry having served as the AOA Chair of the Membership Development Committee for six years and Chair of the Affiliate Relations and Membership Executive Committee. Other AOA Committees and appointments to which Dr. Ono has served include the Practice Modalities Committee, Resolutions Committee and Vision USA. In 2019, he was honored with the AOA President's Award. In June 2020, Dr. Ono was elected to the AOA Board of Trustees, and he currently serves on the Journal Committee of the American Association of Corporate Optometrists.

"I am truly humbled and honored by receiving the Dr. Larry J. Alexander Award by the AACO," said Dr. Ono. "Dr. Alexander was truly an icon in our community and dedicated himself in helping others in the profession. He mentored countless students and colleagues throughout their careers. As I look back at my career, I have benefited greatly by mentors who have guided me through my volunteer optometric career. It is clear to me that our relationships with one another makes Optometry strong and resilient. Thank you again for this amazing honor."

Great Western Council of Optometry (GWCO) is comprised of 13-Western AOA affiliates and Dr. Ono was on the Board of Directors from 2010 to 2019, including serving as President in 2017-2018. He served in all Executive Officer positions and served as Chair of the Congress Planning, Industry Relations, Leadership Development, Medical Grants and Nominating Committees. GWCO awarded him with the President Leadership Award in 2017.

An active member of his state affiliate, Dr. Ono has served as President of the Optometric Physicians of Washington and has served in numerous positions, including all Executive Officer positions and Trustee. He has served as Chair of the Annual Convention Planning, Awards, Children's Vision, Legislative Grassroots, Membership Development and VISION USA Committees. He serves as the legislative keyperson for both state and federal legislators. In 2017, OPW recognized his optometric and community contributions with the Jack Hale (Lifetime Achievement) Award. In addition, he is the recipient of the Optometric Physician of the Year Award in 2016 and the Distinguished Service Award in 2016 and 2005.

Before moving to Washington State, Dr. Ono was a member of the Minnesota Optometric Association (MOA) and served as the Metro-area Legislative Grassroots Coordinator and Chair/Co-Founder of the Minnesota Vision Project, part of the national VISION USA initiative. The MOA awarded Dr. Ono with the President's Award in 1994.

In addition to his leadership within the profession of optometry, Dr. Ono has had a record of public service extending far beyond the exam room. In his community, Dr. Ono served on the Vestry (Church Board) of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Seattle and served as the Senior Warden (Chair) of the Vestry. Other memberships and affiliates include the American Public Health Association and the Japanese American Citizens League. He lives with his spouse, Wendy Nakatsukasa-Ono. His son, Alex, is pursuing pre-Optometry curriculum.

#### **About AACO**

*It is the mission of AACO to provide technical and professional education, practice resources, and tools for corporate affiliated optometrists so they may provide the highest quality care to their patients. For more information regarding the American Association of Corporate Optometrists, please visit [www.aacoeyes.org](http://www.aacoeyes.org).*

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