

Optical Women's Association to Honor Christie Walker of Jobson Optical Group with 2011 Pleiades Award

The Optical Women's Association (OWA) will honor Christie Walker with the organization's 12th annual Pleiades Award at its cocktail and award reception on Friday, March 18, 2011 during International Vision Expo East in New York.

Ms. Walker is currently the editor of the trade magazine LabTalk, a Jobson Optical Group publication. Walker keeps the lab side of the industry up-to-date on the latest news, technology and equipment developments.

The Pleiades Award spotlights an individual who has shown a commitment to the mission of the OWA by fostering the growth of women in the industry. The Pleiades Award is named for the star cluster Pleiades, also known as the "Seven Sisters" in the Taurus constellation. Pleiades Award winners have a star named after them and receive a star map and certificate as part of their recognition.

Prior recipients have included Danne Ventura, Essilor; Rene Soltis, The Vision Council; Stephanie DeLong, Eyecare Business; Deborah Malakoff-Castor, The Vision Council; Janet Callif, Luxottica Retail; Dana R. Weeks, Optical Services International; Mimi Friedfeld, ClearVision Optical; Carene S. Kunkler, Sight Resource; Andrea Gluck, Eyewear Designs, Inc.; Tom Styers, Essilor; and Charles 'Pat' Patterson, Walman Optical.

The Pleiades event and networking reception is open to both OWA members and non-members. It will be held in the new high-end hall at the Javits Center. The event runs from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception. The award presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m.

The OWA, founded in 1997, exists to enhance and promote the leadership role of women in the ophthalmic industry through networking and peer support. The association's programs includes the Professional Optical Women's Workshop (POWW) educational events, the Star Network mentoring program, networking events and its annual member directory.

The OWA's Professional Development Fund (PDF) was created to assist the OWA in generating funds to support the group's mission and deliver meaningful services to women of the optical industry and profession.

