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OPTICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION HOSTS NEW YORK CITY EVENTS DURING VISION EXPO EAST

DALLAS, TX – February 15, 2017 – The Optical Women's Association (OWA) heads into its 20th year of celebrating and promoting the achievements of women in the optical industry with two exciting events in New York City—a Champagne Breakfast and Star Awards celebration. Both events will give members and guests a chance to hear from this year's leadership honorees: Pleiades honoree **Kate Renwick-Espinosa**, President of VSP Eye Care; Pyxis honoree **Lorie Lippiatt, OD**, President of The Salem Eyecare Center; and Pinnacle honoree, **Corinne McCormack**, Vice President and Fashion Director at FGX International. The Pinnacle is a new award in honor of the organization's 20th anniversary.

The Champagne Breakfast Event will be held on **Thursday, March 30, 2017 from 7:15 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.** at the trendy Kimpton Hotel Eventi, 851 6th Avenue in midtown Manhattan. Guests will get to hear from the honorees about their own personal experiences and achievements throughout their career, as well as participate in an interactive discussion with Doris Carlson, OD, FAAO, past president of the American Optometric Association and owner/optometrist at Heartland Eye Care in North Dakota. The discussion with Dr. Carlson will be moderated by OWA President Maureen Cavanagh.

The Champagne Breakfast is open to members as well as non-members. Seating will be limited and reservations are a must. The cost for this event is \$55 per person. The event is sponsored by OWA Platinum Sponsor, Luxottica. Reservations may be made online by March 15, 2017 at opticalwomen.com.

The OWA is also hosting an invitation-only VIP **OWA Annual Star Award Ceremony & Networking Event** on Saturday, April 1 from 6-8 p.m. at Le Parker Meridien Hotel's Estrella Penthouse and Terrace, 119 West 56th Street, a stunning location overlooking New York's famed Central Park and the city skyline.

The three honorees will be celebrated at this very special event, sponsored by OWA Platinum Sponsors VSP Global and Marchon.

Only guests who have RSVP'd will be admitted to this very special event. To request an invitation, contact office@opticalwomen.com.

ABOUT THE HONOREES:

Kate Renwick-Espinosa has worked for VSP for more than 23 years and previously served as VSP Global's first chief marketing officer.

She has been instrumental in the development of a broad corporate social responsibility and charity program that has provided millions of dollars in free eye care and eyewear to hundreds of thousands of people in need around the world. She was named one of *Vision Monday's* "Most Influential Women in Optical" in 2005 and was a 2013 recipient of the "Most Powerful and Influential Women Award" from the California Diversity Council.

Renwick-Espinosa will be honored with the Pleiades Award, which celebrates an individual for showing exceptional support in advancing the leadership role of women.

Lori Lippiatt, O.D., is president of the Salem Eyecare Center, Inc., a comprehensive optometric center she founded in 1989. She has been instrumental in the development of electronic medical records for optometrists and technology integration, and served as a consultant for OfficeMate, VisionWeb, and Marco. An OWA member since 2004, Dr. Lippiatt has served as co-chair of the Professional Development Fund on the board of the OWA for the past three years.

The Pyxis Award honors a member who contributes to the OWA's growth by actively participating in the organization and promoting it throughout the industry.

Corinne McCormack is the creator of the Corinne McCormack line of luxury reading glasses and accessories, and is now vice president and creative director at FGX International, Inc. She has served on the OWA Board of Directors, is a former president of the OWA, and has chaired many committees.

The Pinnacle is a new award, given to someone who has shown long-standing and consistent dedication to the OWA and to furthering the role of women in the optical industry.

For information, contact office@opticalwomen.com, or www.opticalwomen.com.

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About the Optical Women's Association: Founded in 1997 as a non-profit, the Optical Women's Association is committed to supporting and promoting the professional development of women involved in all facets of the optical industry.

As the vision of the OWA evolves and expands, it maintains the focus of the OWA's founding principles and core mission: to enhance and promote the leadership role of women in the optical industry through networking, education and peer support.