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## **Optical Women's Association Announces 2025 Award Honorees**

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The Optical Women's Association (OWA) has announced their 2025 OWA award honorees:

**Lori Archer**, CEO of UnitedHealthcare Vision, will receive the **Pleiades Award**, recognizing her exceptional dedication and support in advancing the leadership role of women in the optical industry.

**Megan Molony**, Chief Merchandising & Managed Care Officer for National Vision, is the **Pyxis Award** honoree, acknowledging her service and commitment to growing the OWA and promoting it throughout the optical industry.

**Kayla Ashlee**, CEO and Founder of Spexy, will receive the **Emerging Leader Award**, given to rising stars within the optical industry who display exemplary leadership qualities.

Dr. Lorie Lippiatt, OWA President, had this to say: "On behalf of the entire OWA Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate our 2025 awardees! Each year at the highly anticipated Vision Expo East [Champagne Breakfast](#), we honor select women who have had a meaningful impact on their peers, companies, the OWA membership, and our beloved industry. Lori, Megan, and Kayla have all made impressive contributions over the course of their respective careers. They share in common the passion and desire to see women excel in leadership roles, and they set an amazing example of what "great" looks like. I am inspired by each of their stories, the intense dedication they have for our industry, and the support and direction they have provided to so many. I invite you all to join me in celebrating with them in February!"

The award recipients will be honored at the OWA's annual **Champagne Breakfast on Wednesday, February 19, 2025**, during International Vision Expo East. Sponsored by **EssilorLuxottica** and the OWA, this event will be held at the **Hyatt Regency Orlando**. For more information, [click here](#).

### **About the Honorees**

**Lori Archer** is an experienced executive with UnitedHealthcare Vision, a division of UnitedHealth Group, a Fortune 5 company. As Chief Executive Officer, Lori is responsible for business strategy, execution and operations in this diversified organization serving commercial, individual and government clients.

A compassionate leader with nearly 30 years' experience in nearly every aspect of the vision insurance and optical business, Lori has a proven track record of leading the delivery of member-centric vision benefits with unmatched choice in access to care. She has twice been recognized by Vision Monday's "Most Influential Women in Optical" - most recently in the Executive Suite category (2020) and in the Mentors category (2008). Prior to her current position, Lori has held a variety of leadership roles within UnitedHealthcare including sales and client management, client operations and product strategy and execution.

Lori is chair-elect on the Board of Directors of National Association of Vision Care Plans (NAVCP), a 2024 member of the Global Myopia Awareness Coalition (GMAC) and a member of the Optical Women's Association.

**Megan Molony** joined the optical industry in 1995. Since then, she has worked for some of the largest global optical companies, including both Luxottica and Essilor, as well as National Vision, where she served in several key leadership roles across multiple functions. Those functions include Merchandising, Product Development, Customer Experience, Strategic Planning, Pricing Strategy, Managed Care, Operations and Innovation.

Megan joined National Vision in 2017. As National Vision's Chief Merchandising and Managed Care Officer, Megan Molony has strategic oversight of product, pricing, visual merchandising and managed care. Megan is instrumental in sourcing high-quality, low-cost products to deliver a broad assortment across all National Vision brands and drive revenue through strong Vision Care partnerships.

In addition to her role at National Vision, Megan has been actively involved in the OWA since 2016, and now serves as Vice President and Co-Chair of the Professional Development Fund Committee. She also serves on the board of the National Association of Vision Care Plans (NAVCP).

**Kayla Ashlee** is the CEO & founder of Spexy, an international optometric speaker, a certified optician, and quite the optometric renegade. Her direct and relatable approach to training has set her apart in the optical industry. Kayla took her knowledge of industry coaching and adapted it to reach any eyecare office that is hungry to grow by putting her training in an online video learning platform called Spexy®. The result, she and her team train opticals to form a connection with patients through each experience. This has led to Kayla being selected as one of the Most Influential Women in Eyecare in 2024 by Vision Monday magazine. Kayla has been a contributor to Invision Magazine for three years, and was on the cover in April 2024.

Kayla invented a tool called FrameTurn® for independent opticals. This creation allows opticals to have access to frame inventory coaching and guidance based upon each optical's own unique sales numbers and has proven to be a massive profit builder for the independent!

Please visit [www.opticalwomen.com](http://www.opticalwomen.com) for more information.

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About the Optical Women's Association: Founded in 1997 as a nonprofit, 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.