



February 18, 2019

Dear AOCLE members,

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[aocle.org](http://aocle.org)

**RE: George Mertz New Educator Travel Award**

In 2003, the AOCLE established the George Mertz New Educator Travel Award to honor the memory of Dr. George Mertz, Director of Professional Affairs at Vistakon and longtime friend of the AOCLE. Dr. Mertz was a strong advocate of contact lens education and the AOCLE wanted to honor that commitment by inviting a new contact lens educator to attend their first AOCLE workshop. This opportunity would help a novice CL educator, who would otherwise not be able to attend and network with other educators from all the North American schools and colleges of optometry.

**Eligibility:** A new contact lens educator who has never attended an AOCLE workshop. There should be no more than one application per school or college.

**Application:** Nominations of no more than one page outlining his/her qualifications and contribution to contact lens education (didactic/laboratory/clinic) at your institution should be submitted by the chief or other administrator at your institution.

**Deadline:** All information must be received by March 8, 2019 and should be submitted electronically to the AOCLE Chair, Katherine Clore at [kclore@uab.edu](mailto:kclore@uab.edu).

**Judging:** All applications will be reviewed by the AOCLE Executive Committee. Recipients will be notified soon after the AOCLE mid-year planning meeting in early April.

**Travel Award:** More than one travel award may be granted per year. The recipient(s) will be invited to that year's annual workshop and their travel, accommodation and workshop expenses will be covered by the travel grant. This year's annual workshop will be hosted by the Pacific University College of Optometry, May 30-June 2, 2019. The recipient is expected to attend the entire meeting.

**Report:** A brief paragraph detailing their experience is expected from the recipient and may be posted in a future AOCLE newsletter &/or on the AOCLE website.

We hope that you consider nominating a new educator for this award!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Katie".

Katherine Clore, OD