



NEWS RELEASE

[California Optometric Association](http://www.coaoptometric.org)

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COA Past President Dr. Harue Marsden Honored with Great Western Council of Optometry's Lifetime Achievement Award

Sacramento, CA – The California Optometric Association (COA) announced that past president Dr. Harue Marsden, OD, MS, FAAO, was honored by the Great Western Council of Optometry's "Lifetime Achievement" award. Marsden was a leader and educator in the profession of optometry until her passing in February 2017, following a long and valiant battle with cancer.

"Dr. Marsden's recognition by the Great Western Council of Optometry is a wonderful and fitting tribute for an irreplaceable leader in our field. Harue left an indelible mark on our profession and on the eye health of Californians," said COA President Dr Sage Hider.

Marsden was a graduate of the Southern California College of Optometry (SCCO), completing her undergraduate studies in 1985 and receiving her doctor of optometry degree in 1987. She later completed a master of science in physiologic optics and became laser certified.

Marsden was actively involved in professional optometric associations since her time as a student, contributing in roles with the American Optometric Association; the California Optometric Association, where she served in a number of positions, including president in 2010-11; the COA Orange County Optometric Society; and, the American Academy of Optometry. She was also a director with the Great Western Council of Optometry from 2009 until her passing.

As COA president, Marsden led the organization's effort to secure regulations allowing doctors of optometry to treat glaucoma, a significant step forward for patients' eye health. Marsden shaped a generation of eye doctors through her work as a counselor and teacher at the University of Houston, College of Optometry and later as a professor, associate dean, and director of externships at her alma mater, SCCO. She generously shared her expertise and insights, speaking nationally and internationally on topics of interest to eye doctors and serving as a reviewer for the *Journal of the American Optometric Association* and other prestigious scholarly journals.

"While we still mourn the loss of our friend, teacher and mentor, the California Optometric Association is pleased to join our colleagues from across the Western States to pay tribute to Harue and her contributions to our profession and our patients," Dr. Hider concluded.

The Great Western Council of Optometry was formed in 1991 to provide a common voice for the optometric community and provide opportunities for professional development across thirteen states: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

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Established in 1899, the California Optometric Association is California's oldest organized community for doctors of optometry. Representing doctors of optometry throughout the state, COA is dedicated to support and advance the profession of optometry to assure quality health care for all Californians. Learn more at coavision.org, [Facebook.com/California Optometric](https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaOptometric) and [Twitter.com/COA_Vision](https://twitter.com/COA_Vision).

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