

PURPOSE & VISION OF THE EMERGING OPTICAL LEADERS COMMITTEE

The Emerging Optical Leaders (EOL) committee exists to identify the next generation of optical industry leaders for The Vision Council. The committee is responsible for creating leadership development opportunities and fostering networking opportunities for emerging optical executives within the EOL committee, while also sharing insights helpful to The Vision Council's strategic goals.

CORE FOCUS OF THE EOL

The EOL committee and its members focus their efforts into three primary functions, dubbed the 3 Pillars of the EOL. As a member of the EOL, you can select and contribute to the pillar aligned with your unique abilities, interests, and experiences.



ENGAGEMENT & PARTICIPATION IN EOL

Fueling the EOL committee's networking and engagement, the engagement and participation pillar works to build the community among the EOL. This pillar is responsible for the recruitment, onboarding, and participation of committee members.



CONTINUOUS DEVELOPMENT

The continuous development pillar focuses on creating and executing leadership and development opportunities or events for members of the EOL committee. Past initiatives have included EOL Retreat, panel-style fireside chats with prominent industry leaders, leadership training sessions at The Vision Council's Executive Summit, and execution of the EOL mentorship program.



CONTRIBUTION TO THE VISION COUNCIL

The Vision Council leans on the EOL for insight and feedback into strategic direction and challenges as up-and-coming industry leaders. This pillar is responsible for consulting and supporting various committees within The Vision Council.



WHO IS EOL FOR?

If you are seeking an opportunity to expand your network within the industry, are eager to connect and learn from peers and industry veterans, and are seeking to make an impact on the strength and success of The Vision Council, the Emerging Optical Leaders committee is for you.

CRITERIA FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE EMERGING OPTICAL LEADERS ARE AS FOLLOWS:



- You are actively employed with a member company of The Vision Council
- You are nominated to join the committee by a senior executive of your member company
- You have the support of your company and supervisor to be an active member

WHAT DOES PARTICIPATION IN EOL LOOK LIKE?

Participation in EOL consists of in-person meetings, virtual meetings, networking events and supporting one of the three EOL Pillars throughout the year. As a member of the EOL committee, you are asked to attend two in-person EOL meetings at minimum. The meetings will take place at either Executive Summit, EOL Retreat, Vision Expo East, or Vision Expo West. Throughout the year, you will also be invited to attend leadership events both in-person and virtually as a member of the EOL.

"Leadership begins with stepping up. You don't need a title—just the courage to make a difference." — Unknown

EOL STEERING COMMITTEE

The EOL is led by a steering committee, which ensures the viability and alignment of the EOL committee with The Vision Council.

2025–2026 EMERGING OPTICAL LEADERS STEERING COMMITTEE

- Mollie Tavel Kaback- Chair
- Courtney Hughes- Vice Chair
- Aaron Liener
- Hugh McManus
- Nolan Rhyne
- Bonnie Whitfield- The Vision Council Staff Support

