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Nearly 100 Optical Industry Executives Convene for The Vision Council's Lab Leadership Forum

The 2024 Event Featured Networking, Discussion and Recognition of Steve Sutherlin

Alexandria, VA – April 15, 2024 – The Vision Council, the leading organization representing the optical industry, successfully hosted the 2024 Lab Leadership Forum on Thursday, April 11, and Friday, April 12, 2024, at the picturesque Temecula Creek Inn. This exclusive event saw a gathering of nearly 100 optical industry executives, providing a platform for education, networking, and recognition among optical laboratory professionals.

The Lab Leadership Forum, tailored specifically for The Vision Council's optical laboratory members, offered a comprehensive agenda aimed at fostering professional growth and collaboration among industry peers. Attendees seized the opportunity to connect and exchange insights, further strengthening the fabric of the optical community.

One of the highlights of the event was the posthumous honoring of Steve Sutherlin with the **2024 Goodfellow Award** during a poignant ceremony held on Thursday, April 11. The Goodfellow Award, which was created to acknowledge individuals who significantly contribute to the advancement of the optical industry, recognized Sutherlin's profound impact and lasting legacy.

Sutherlin, an esteemed optical laboratory executive, dedicated his life to the industry, leaving an indelible mark through his leadership and tireless efforts. His pivotal role in the merger of the Optical Laboratories Association (OLA) into The Vision Council, as well as his instrumental contributions to the optical community, will be forever remembered.

The Lab Leadership Forum featured a diverse agenda, including informative sessions, engaging discussions, and networking opportunities. Attendees participated in a range of activities, from a golf tournament to speed networking sessions, enriching their experience and forging valuable connections.

“The Lab Leadership Forum serves as a pivotal platform for fostering collaboration, innovation, and professional development within the optical community,” said **Michael Vitale, VP of Membership, Government Relations and Technical Standards at The Vision Council.**

“We are immensely proud to host almost 100 individuals from laboratories across the industry and witness the exchange of knowledge and ideas among industry leaders, further solidifying our collective commitment to excellence.”

The Vision Council extends its gratitude to the sponsors whose support made the event possible:

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About The Vision Council

The Vision Council brings the power of sight to all through education, government relations, research and technical standards. A leading advocate for the optical industry, the association positions its members to deliver the eyewear and eyecare people need to look and feel their best. Vital to health, independence and safety, better vision leads to better lives.