



Advancing Diversity in Leadership

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Organization Contact**

Gaynor Fries, Executive Director  
gfries@owlsite.org  
(919) 809-2373

**Media Contact**

Lauren Colella, Pascale Communications  
lauren@pascalecommunications.com  
(215) 350-0535

## **OWL: Advancing Diversity in Leadership Appoints New Executive Director, Gaynor Fries**

**KANSAS CITY, Missouri – May 2, 2018** – OWL: Advancing Diversity in Leadership, an organization dedicated to driving innovation and patient care by advancing diversity in eye care leadership, today announced that Gaynor Fries has been appointed Executive Director of the organization.

Gaynor has been a key part of the support team behind OWL since July 2015. With a BA in Business Administration and a Certificate in Non-profit Management from Duke University, she brings more than 25 years of experience as an administrator and management consultant to many thriving organizations.

“I am honored to be stepping into a leadership role with OWL and look forward to working more closely with the Board to fulfill OWL’s mission,” said Fries. “It is somewhat fitting that an organization devoted to advancing leadership is walking the walk, encouraging one of its own into a leadership role. I’m excited to guide OWL through the next stage in its development.”

OWL President Georgette Pascale said, “We are so thankful for Gaynor ‘growing up with us’ here at OWL, where she has made a lasting difference working with the board, committees and leadership team to enhance organizational and membership activities, communications, events and so many other aspects of OWL’s management. As Executive Director, her positive momentum and business savvy will help OWL progress towards our goal of advancing diversity on a global scale.”

This news comes directly after the success of OWL’s Signature & Networking events during this year’s American Academy of Cataract & Refractive Surgery meeting in Washington, D.C. The Signature event, which included panelists Jeffrey J. Kimbell, Jim Mazzo, Dr. Ahmet Tezel and Ruth Williams, generated a crowd of 200+ attendees. Overarching themes at the events included the importance of surrounding yourself with a diverse group of people, listening to a range of different of ideas, and taking risks to pursue one’s passions.

## **About OWL: Advancing Diversity in Leadership**

OWL: Advancing Diversity in Leadership is a national, not-for-profit organization that seeks to foster relationships and provide professional and personal development to help individuals and organizations reach their full potential, while also creating continued opportunities for collaboration that advance patient care. Comprised of individuals from all facets of eye care, including industry, consultants, ophthalmologists and practice professionals, OWL is founded on a belief in inclusive, diverse professional environments that inspire, support and connect. Through sponsored educational and networking events, OWL promotes diversity in leadership to drive improved outcomes, and the development of professional environments that respect the contributions of all members of the team.

###