



**UNITED OPTICIANS ASSOCIATION, INC.**

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## **United Opticians Association Welcomes Gwen Cooper as New Executive Director**

Lexington, KY - The Executive Board is excited to announce the appointment of Gwen Cooper to the role of Executive Director of the United Opticians Association. “We are thrilled to welcome Gwen as our new Executive Director,” said Ronnie Harbert, President, he continued, “She brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit leadership, legislative advocacy, and organizational growth—skills that will be invaluable as we continue to support and advance the profession of opticianry.”

With over two decades of experience leading multi-state and national organizations, Gwen has secured millions in funding for mission-driven initiatives, spearheaded major legislative successes, and led transformative marketing and advocacy campaigns. Gwen’s experience in healthcare policy and patient-centered care aligns perfectly with UOA’s mission to empower opticians and enhance eye care accessibility. “I am honored to join the United Opticians Association and look forward to working alongside our members to strengthen the voice of opticians nationwide,” said Gwen. “Together, we will advocate for policies that support opticians, enhance patient care, and elevate the profession.”

Cooper served in executive leadership roles at Accessia Health, Hosparus Health, Seven Counties Services, and Community Health Charities of Florida where she was successful in driving long-term growth, fund development, marketing, policy-making, and market expansion. She currently serves on the Patient Engagement Advisory Panel with PCORI (Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute) and is a member of Women Business Leaders in the Healthcare Industry and the American Society of Association Executives. Gwen holds a Master’s Degree in Public Affairs & Nonprofit Management from Indiana University. Her background in fundraising, government relations, and coalition-building will help UOA expand its impact, ensuring that opticians have the resources, recognition, and opportunities they deserve. “I am eager to collaborate with the talented professionals at UOA to drive meaningful change,” Gwen added. “This is an exciting time for the industry, and I am committed to advancing our shared vision.”

We look forward to the exciting initiatives ahead for our members under Gwen’s leadership.

### **About the United Opticians Association (UOA)**

The United Opticians Association’s mission has been to support, promote, and advance the profession of Opticianry through education, credentialing, and advocacy. Spectacle and Contact Lens Opticians play a critical role in ensuring the visual health and well-being of the public. As the healthcare landscape evolves, Opticians need to stay engaged to advocate for their profession and the protection of their patients. UOA members are offered continuing education, discounts on products, and access to our annual Leadership conference as well as national and regional events.