

National Board of Examiners in Optometry Announces New Board Appointments, Honors Outgoing Members

Charlotte, N.C. — January 22, 2026 — The National Board of Examiners in Optometry (NBEO®) has announced the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors effective January 1, 2026. Dr. Melissa Trego and Dr. Gerard Lozada have joined the NBEO Board, succeeding Dr. Michael Ohlson and Dr. Joshua Baker, whose terms concluded at the end of 2025.

Dr. Ohlson served on the NBEO Board for eight years, including two years as President. His leadership and strategic vision have been invaluable in guiding the organization's mission to ensure the competence of practicing optometrists through assessment. Dr. Michael Ohlson practices medical optometry at Avera Marshall Regional Medical Center, where he provides comprehensive eye care within an integrated hospital system. Dr. Baker served a four year term on the Board, most recently as Secretary-Treasurer, contributing thoughtful oversight and financial stewardship that strengthened NBEO operations. In September of 2025, Dr. Baker was named President and CEO of Midwestern University.

NBEO extends its deep appreciation to Dr. Ohlson and Dr. Baker for their service, leadership, and dedication to advancing the organization's mission.

The Board also welcomes Dr. Melissa Trego, Dean and Professor at the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry, and Dr. Gerard Lozada, an associate at Professional EyeCare Regency and the founder of Rosedale Vision Center. Dr. Lozada brings extensive regulatory experience to the NBEO Board, having served as President of the Kansas State Board of Examiners in Optometry from 2014 through 2023. Dr. Trego previously served as Dean of the Pennsylvania College of Optometry at Salus University and is a past President of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry (ASCO), bringing nearly two decades of academic and clinical leadership to the NBEO Board.



2026 NBEO Board of Directors



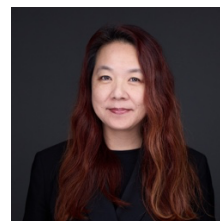
James S.
Campbell, OD -
President



Patrick O'Neill, OD
– Vice President



Daniel A. Taylor,
OD, EdD, MS, MBA
– Secretary-
Treasurer



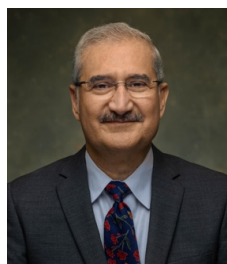
Susy Yu, OD,
MBA – Board
Member



Gary Y. Chu, OD,
MPH – Board
Member



Caroline M.
Kolman, PE, MBA –
Board Member



Gerard Lozada,
OD – Board
Member



Melissa E. Trego,
OD, PhD – Board
Member

About the National Board of Examiners in Optometry

Established in 1951, NBEO is an independent, non-governmental, 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization whose examinations are universally accepted for optometric licensure in the United States. The mission of NBEO is to protect the public through competence assessment. For media related inquiries, please contact media@optometry.org.