

Dr. Marvin R. Poston Leadership Awards

VSP Vision™ is proud to continue the Marvin R. Poston Leadership Awards in collaboration with the National Optometric Association.

**FOUR OPTOMETRY
STUDENTS WILL WIN
\$4,000 SCHOLARSHIPS.**

One scholarship will be awarded per cohort (first year, second year, etc.).



CLASS OF 2029 CLASS OF 2028 CLASS OF 2027 CLASS OF 2026

HOW TO APPLY

Eligible candidates must create and submit a short video (seven minutes maximum) that addresses the following topics:

1. What is your personal purpose statement?*
2. Give examples of your leadership skills and experience.
3. What drives you towards a path to private practice optometry?
4. Tell us about your commitment to giving back to the community.
5. Describe your plans and career path after graduation.

*A personal purpose statement defines who you are. It reflects your passions and values. It provides clarity as you set your goals.

Submit your video file or link to schoolsofoptometry@vsp.com.

QUESTIONS? Email us at schoolsofoptometry@vsp.com.

DEADLINE:

May 17, 2026

ELIGIBILITY

- Active member of NOSA
- Commitment to an optometry career of leadership and service
- Business-minded student who is preparing for a career in private practice

vsp VISION™

About Dr. Poston

Dr. Marvin R. Poston (1915 – 2002) was the first Black American admitted to the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry. Upon graduation in 1939, he became the first Black American licensed to practice on the West Coast.

In 1955, Dr. Poston and colleagues formed California Vision Services. The innovative company was the first to offer prepaid vision plans providing high-quality, cost-effective eye care. Now known as VSP® Vision Care, it has become the largest vision benefits provider in the nation.

Dr. Poston established vision screening programs for underserved individuals. The Children’s Vision Center of the East Bay, West Oakland Health Group, and East Bay Skill Center are a few of the organizations benefited by his efforts.

Dr. Poston was the first Black American to be honored as Optometrist of the Year by the American Optometric Association and the California Optometric Association. He was appointed to three terms on the California State Board of Optometry by state governors, Brown and Reagan.

