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**For Immediate Release**

**OPTICAL WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS "CONNECTION SERIES"  
LUNCH AND LEARN PROGRAM SEPTEMBER 18 AT VISION EXPO WEST**

DALLAS, TX – August 1, 2014 —The Optical Women's Association's **Connection Series: Connecting Members to Leadership Ideas** (formerly the P.O.W.W. event) presents *Seeing (Blind) Spots? Men and Women Working Together*, at Vision Expo West on Thursday, September 18<sup>th</sup> from noon to 1:30. Note the new day and time for this annual OWA event.

This 'light lunch and learn' panel program features two men and two women from the optical industry who will discuss their business experiences of working together. Discussion points will include "gender blind spots," false assumptions men and women share about each other, how men and women approach things differently, and solutions for how men and women can succeed together.

Based on the OWA book selection, ***Work with Me: The 8 Blind Spots Between Men and Women in Business***, co-authored by Barbara Annis and John Grey, the panelists will answer questions on their experiences of working with and for men and women.

Valerie Manso, regional vice president, strategic eye care partnerships at VSP Vision Care, will moderate the discussion with panelists representing a variety of work experiences and age ranges. Panelists include: Andrea Gluck, co-president of Eyewear Designs Ltd, and past chair of the Vision Council of America; Bob Colucci, president, independent distribution division, Essilor of America, Inc., and chairman of the Essilor Vision Foundation; Gilda Mehraban, director of brand management, REM Eyewear; and David Duralde, chief creative officer and member of the Board of Directors for Kenmark Optical.

Register online at [www.opticalwomen.com](http://www.opticalwomen.com) for this exciting panel discussion on September 18th from noon to 1:30. Location to be announced soon. The event is free to OWA members, \$35 for non-members.

**About the Optical Women's Association:**

The Optical Women's Association is a non-profit organization founded in September of 1997 with the mission of supporting and promoting the professional development of women in the optical industry. Projects and programs include the Professional Optical Women's Workshop, providing women in the optical industry with personal and professional growth opportunities; networking events at both Vision Expo East and West; and the annual Pleiades award which recognizes and honors individuals who have made a significant difference for women in the optical industry.