

Alden N. Haffner, O.D., Ph.D., FAAO



Dr. Haffner is an eminent optometrist, academic leader, passionate patron of the arts, and advocate of VA Optometry. He was the founding President of the State University of New York (SUNY) College of Optometry in 1971. Dr. Haffner held many posts at SUNY Optometry, including Dean, President, Associate Chancellor for Health Sciences, and Vice Chancellor for Research, Graduate Studies and Professional Programs.

Dr. Haffner holds an A.B. degree from Brooklyn College, an O.D. degree from the Pennsylvania College of Optometry, as well as M.P.A. and Ph.D. degrees from New York University.

His honors include the Eminent Service Award from the American Academy of Optometry in 1996 and an inductee to the National Optometry Hall of Fame in 2000.

He is a former President of the New York State Optometric Association and has served on a number of American Optometric Association initiatives. His community service and affiliations are numerous and include the New York Children's Vision Coalition, the Herman Biggs Society, and former member of the Special Medical Advisory Group for the Department of Veterans Affairs for an unprecedented 25 years.

NAVAO was honored to welcome Dr. Haffner to our annual meeting in Boston this year where he presented his keynote speech on "VA's Contribution to Optometric Exceptionalism."