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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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SPIE Awards \$5000 Grant to the Optics Institute of Southern California's Optricks Suitcase Program

Bellingham, WA, USA—22 May 2007—SPIE recently awarded a \$5000 grant to the Optics Institute of Southern California (OISC) to help fund its successful Optricks Suitcase program.

The OISC actively promotes math, science, and engineering education to young people by demonstrating optics and related technologies. Through events such as their annual Optricks Days and various outreach programs at the University of California, Irvine, the OISC has reached more than 5000 students in just four years.

Using funding from SPIE and other organizations, companies, and individuals, the OISC has created 10 reusable Optricks Suitcases. These kits include the materials and instructions to demonstrate a number of different optical properties and phenomena in a fun, hands-on way. With the recent grant, the organization will build another 10 suitcases.

"The SPIE funding has been very important, especially for the Optricks Suitcases, as that has enabled us to reach over 1000 students. We anticipate that with the new funding, we will be able to reach another 1000 students in one year (instead of two)," said Donn Silberman, founding director of the OISC.

Learn more about the Optics Institute of Southern California at www.oisc.net.

SPIE is the world's largest international not-for-profit society in the fields of optics, photonics, and imaging with 17,500 individual members including 3,500 students. To date, SPIE has distributed over \$3 million U.S. dollars in scholarships and grants to those working and learning in 84 countries. SPIE strongly believes in the opportunities and personal enrichment that education provides and in the need for increased scientific and technical literacy. The Society is committed to the upcoming generations of scientists and engineers who will develop the potential of optics and photonics.

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