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- Meet AmeriCOM's 'Dream Team' technical advisory group.
- Learn how your company can help grow the optics workforce.
- Check out the AmeriCOM Kits introducing high school students to the world of optics.

Dr. Alexis Vogt, SPIE Honoree, Reflects on Journey



"It's a tremendous honor," said Dr. Alexis Vogt. "But more than that, it is validation that we're on the right path toward strengthening the optics manufacturing workforce." **Dr. Vogt received the SPIE María J. Yzuel Educator Award**, recognizing outstanding contributions to optics education.

"The national demand is so great, companies across the United States have contacted us to hire recent grads."

The award is the latest in Dr. Vogt's distinguished career in optics spanning both academia and industry. As Endowed Chair and Professor of Optics at Monroe Community College (MCC) in Rochester, NY, Dr. Vogt took a moment to reflect on how far the program has come over the years. She admits it has been quite the journey.

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AmeriCOM Technical Advisors Solve Big Challenges in Pursuit of a Bigger Goal



Think of it as a giant 3-D puzzle with complex pieces that often change, but somehow you have to make them all fit together. That is the task of AmeriCOM's Technical Advisory Group whose members work with community colleges that are part of AmeriCOM's optics ecosystems to establish and build optics training labs. So how do you go about putting the puzzle together? You start by assembling the right team.

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How Can Your Company Help Grow the Optics Workforce?

Whether or not your optics manufacturing company is in a region where AmeriCOM is establishing an optics ecosystem or not, you can be part of this national initiative. Here are ways your company can get involved:

- **Talk it up** – Every employer can also be an ambassador for the industry. TheFutureIsOptics.com has great information and shareable resources to promote optics manufacturing. Check the website often as new content is added frequently.
- **Support our nation's community colleges** – Separate from AmeriCOM's Technical Advisors, the optics program at each community college has an advisory board to advise on curriculum, provide support to students, and more.
- **Pay it forward** – Share your knowledge as an adjunct instructor. If you've always thought about teaching but aren't sure how to start, read about a [Technical Specialist from Lumetrics](#) and his journey giving back to students.
- **Elevate your shining stars** – Support apprenticeships to prepare tomorrow's industry leaders.
- **Tell us your stories** – AmeriCOM is constantly looking for technicians to feature in our national marketing campaign. If someone on your team has a compelling story we can feature, contact our National Marketing and Workforce Development Operations Director [Josanne DeNatale](#).

AmeriCOM Kits Introduce HS Students to Optics

"I wish I knew about this career path when I was in high school."

That's a common refrain from optics technicians who say a career in optics isn't on the radar for most high school students. AmeriCOM has a plan to change that, and a former teacher is leading the way.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

SPIE Defense and Commercial Sensing
Apr. 30 - May 4, 2023

Hypersonic Innovation Conference
May 2 - 4, 2023

Education in Optics & Photonics (ETOP)
May 15 - 18, 2023

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