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## Leaders and Lawmakers Meet for Photonics Industry Summit



With federal policy significantly impacting the optics and photonics industry, AmeriCOM has once again sponsored SPIE's upcoming Photonics Industry Summit in Washington D.C. later this month. This marks the second of what is now an annual summit to raise the profile of the optics and photonics industry, while allowing industry leaders to learn more about the priorities of the US government in this technology space. Representatives from more than 150 optics companies are expected to attend, and they will be eager to hear governmental leaders discussing policy, opportunities, and a full slate of hot-topic issues.

Rep. Joseph Morelle (NY-25), chair of the **Congressional Optics and Photonics Caucus**, will lead a special session titled *Potential Legislative Impacts on the Optics and Photonics Industry*. With so many sectors of the global economy dependent on optics manufacturing, all industries directly enabled by optics will be on the table for discussion including defense and security, agriculture, energy and environment, healthcare, telecommunications, and more.

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## Teaching Magnifies Technician's Love of Optics



James' (left) on-the-job experience makes him a valuable adjunct teacher at FRCC.

James Losasso has a passion for optics. With 25 years of experience fabricating precision optics for defense, aerospace, telecommunications, and other applications, he also loves to share that passion with the next generation of technicians. James currently teaches OTE 1005 Fabrication of Precision Optics as an adjunct instructor at Front Range Community College (FRCC). We caught up with James for a quick Q&A about his teaching experience. He offered some insights imploring others to support the optics industry through teaching.

### Why did you become an adjunct instructor?

I wanted to inspire others to get into the optics industry by giving them an experience to allure them into a trade that isn't very well known. I've trained a lot of people during my career and have coached youth sports, so mentoring and teaching is something that comes naturally to me.

[Read More: Will James inspire you to teach?](#)

## O+P Conference Recap

Thousands of industry leaders and professionals gathered in San Diego, CA last month for SPIE Optics + Photonics 2023. We went beyond the presentations and courses to find a few stories you may have missed. Check out the highlights in our conference recap.



Thousands stream into the SPIE Optics + Photonics conference. Photos courtesy of SPIE

**Exploring New Markets...** Southern California isn't just a great destination for SPIE's annual Optics + Photonics conference. It could also be home to a future optics ecosystem. AmeriCOM tapped industry representatives for information about technician hiring needs with an assist from Donn Silberman from Optical Society of Southern California (OSSC).



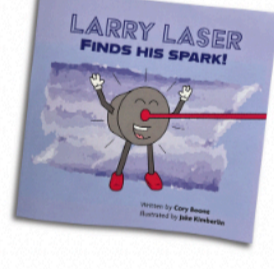
Univ. of Rochester course instructor Julie L. Bentley teaches Optical System Design: Layout Principles and Practice.

**Educator of the Year...**In the **March 2023** issue of *Optics Insider*, we congratulated Dr. Alexis Vogt from Monroe Community College in Rochester, NY on earning the **2023 SPIE Maria J. Yzuel Educator Award**. Dr. Vogt **formally accepted** the award at a special event, becoming the first educator award recipient from a community college.



Alexis Vogt receives Educator of the Year Award from SPIE President, Bernard Kress.

**Hot Off the Press...** SPIE Press published a book geared to introduce young people to the world of optics. ***Larry Laser Finds His Spark!*** is a fun adventure that helps kids learn all the amazing things lasers are used for. Author Cory Boone is Technical Marketing Manager at Edmund Optics.



In **an interview** with SPIE, Boone discussed the importance of exposing younger audiences to optics. "Introducing kids to optical concepts not only potentially develops the optical engineers of tomorrow, but it develops a public much more likely to support optical sciences and advocate for policies that continue to foster technical innovation," he said. You'll find more information about teaching optics to kids on the **Resource Center** page of the AmeriCOM website, **The Future is Optics**.

## Roving Optics Lab Starts National Tour

A first-of-its-kind mobile optics lab rolled into Rochester, NY this month, part of a nationwide tour designed to help introduce new audiences to the world of optics and photonics.



Thorlabs created the **Mobile Photonics Lab Experience** which will visit high schools and colleges across the country offering students hands-on training sessions in a lab environment. The lab visited students at Monroe Community College, University of Rochester, Rochester Institute of Technology, and Brighton High School before heading on to its next stop in Massachusetts. The Mobile Photonics Lab Experience will make several stops across the country and culminate its tour at SPIE Photonics West in San Francisco in January.



The Mobile Photonics Lab will start on the east coast and end at the SPIE Photonics West show in California.

**The Department of Defense report, Training of Skilled Technicians for the Defense Industrial Base, calls for stronger connections between organized industry groups and academia to better Career and Technical Education programs with industry needs.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Photonics Industry Summit**  
 Washington, DC  
 Sept. 27, 2023

**Optifab 2023 | Rochester, NY | Oct. 16-19, 2023**  
 Be sure to check out AmeriCOM's Plenary Session "It Takes an Ecosystem: Building the Precision Optics Industry, One Technician at a Time."  
 Tuesday, Oct. 17, 8:00 am

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As a valued AmeriCOM partner, we are pleased to share with you the first edition of our newsletter. If you enjoy this content, please share with anyone you think may also appreciate it!



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