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Defense Precision Optics Consortium (DPOC) Sharpens Focus



Dave Shelton, AmeriCOM President & CEO, presents during SPIE Optics & Photonics Conference.

AmeriCOM's CEO, Dave Shelton, recently met with optics manufacturing leaders at **SPIE's Optics and Photonics Conference** in San Diego to answer two pressing questions: *What is DPOC?* and *Why do you need to join?* His presentation outlined how AmeriCOM's DPOC can help galvanize the optics manufacturing industry to spark new research and drive innovation.

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AmeriCOM Proud to Sponsor APOMA Technical Workshop

The American Precision Optics Manufacturers Association ([APOMA](#)) will host a two-day [technical workshop](#) in New Orleans, October 8-11, convening optics industry leaders and experts to share cutting-edge insights and innovations. The conference will feature two AmeriCOM speakers: CEO Dave Shelton will present "Chalcogenide Glass Recycling and Plans for Infrared Material Growth," while Program Manager for Workforce and Higher Education, Kirsten Nobel, will lead a session titled "Training Tomorrow's Opticians, AMERICOM-Supported Workforce Development Ecosystems." Other featured speakers include [Tayyab Suratwala](#) from Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and [Daewook Kim](#), Associate Professor of Optical Sciences at University of Arizona's Wyant College of Optical Sciences. The event will also include a tour of the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory ([LIGO](#)) in Livingston, Louisiana, where participants will learn about gravitational wave detection. AmeriCOM is a proud sponsor of the event.

SPIE Summit Recap



Thorlabs President, Jenn Cable, introduced Representative Josh Gottheimer (D) NJ, District 5 at the SPIE Photonics Industry Summit in Washington, DC.

Our Collective Impact

Just like the previous two gatherings, the third annual **SPIE Photonics Industry Summit** did not disappoint. Both aspects of AmeriCOM's mission – workforce development and optics manufacturing technology research – were well covered. Remarks from representatives of the Departments of Commerce, Energy, and Defense; NASA; the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST); the Economic Development Agency; and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory highlighted AmeriCOM's impact.

[Read More About the Summit](#)

"What can we do to alleviate potential [optics] supply chain bottlenecks?"

Dave Shelton, President & CEO, AmeriCOM



CEO Dave Shelton shares his vision for AmeriCOM with Laser Focus World's Justine Murphy in the latest edition of **Following the Photons: A Photonics Podcast**.

Front Range Community College Announces New Optics Program Director

Front Range Community College (FRCC) in Longmont, CO, named **Dr. Jenna Montague** as the new Director of its **Optics and Laser Technology Program**. Dr. Montague recently earned her PhD from the University of Arizona's Wyant College of Optical Sciences. She will lead the program which is the only one of its kind in Colorado. Boulder, and the surrounding northern Colorado region, is a national hub for optics and photonics manufacturers, which creates a strong demand for skilled optics technicians.



Dr. Jenna Montague

UPCOMING EVENTS

APOMA Technical Workshop
 New Orleans, LA
 October 8-11, 2024

Defense Manufacturing Conference (DMC)
 Austin, TX
 December, 2-5 2024

SPIE Photonics West
 San Francisco, CA
 January 25-30, 2025

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AmeriCOM - American Center for Optics Manufacturing, PO Box 23473, Rochester, NY 14692-3473

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