

April 25, 2003

Donn Silberman
The Optics Institute of Southern California
31 Blackbird Lane
Aliso Viejo, CA 92656

Dear Donn,

As chair of SPIE's 2003 Education Committee, I was excited to learn about the recent formation of The Optics Institute of Southern California. Congratulations!

Education is a core mission of SPIE—The International Society for Optical Engineering, and SPIE has a long history of participation in K-12 education activities. We believe that educational outreach not only helps to bring young people into the field of optics, but also contributes to the greater goal of encouraging more youth to stay interested in science, engineering, and mathematics. Optics, because of its visual nature, offers many exciting ways to stimulate student interest and continued involvement in science and math.

The OISC can play an important role in helping SPIE and other organizations implement educational outreach programs in Southern California. It is grass roots efforts at the local level that will really make a difference. Many of the Society's 16,000 members have expressed interest in K-12 programs, and the OISC will greatly increase the opportunities for outreach by SPIE members in Southern California. Please keep us informed of your progress as you move from the founding stage and into the implementation phase, so that we can coordinate efforts and explore areas of future collaboration.

Wishing you and OISC much success,



Prof. John E. Greivenkamp
Chair, SPIE Education Committee