



**VISION IMPACT
INSTITUTE**

Giving Vision a Voice®

Global Executive Director, Kristan Gross, Recognized as 2018 Mentor of the Year by Women of Visionary Influence (WOVI)

Award recognizes women who make a difference through mentoring.

Dallas, Texas – October 23, 2018 – Last week [Women of Visionary Influence](#) (WOVI) recognized The Vision Impact Institute's Global Executive Director, [Kristan Gross](#), as their 2018 Mentor of the Year.

Every year, Dallas-based WOVI recognizes women who make a difference in the lives of other women through mentoring. The Mentor of the Year Award goes to a woman who is dedicated to developing other women, either through management of a mentoring program or through formal or informal mentoring efforts.

In her role as Global Executive Director, Kristan leads and mentors a diverse global team of women based in the US, India, and France to create awareness and advocate for good vision around the world. By prioritizing the importance of relationships and focusing on each team member's background and skills, she is able to create a cohesive focus for this global work.

"It's such an honor to be recognized from this accomplished group of nominees," says Kristan.

"I'm so encouraged that WOVI highlights the importance of mentorship and leadership.

Throughout my career, I've benefited from the leadership of influential women, and, as a result, I see my current role as an opportunity to pay it forward while creating a global impact."

Under Kristan's leadership, the Vision Impact Institute team also focuses on the state of vision for women globally. With women making up 55 percent of the people with vision impairment and 56 percent of the blind worldwide the need is critical, especially when so many stigmas

exist surrounding women wearing glasses. A girl's ability to receive an education is oftentimes jeopardized simply because she cannot see to learn.

Kristan's commitment to helping women extends beyond her daily work. As a domestic violence survivor and advocate, she is passionate about creating awareness about the issue and speaks publicly on the topic to help other women who have been affected.

Kristan joined the Vision Impact Institute in 2015 as Director, Global Content and Communications and assumed the role of Global Executive Director in 2017. Prior to her current position she served for eight years as Communications Director at Essilor.

###

About the Vision Impact Institute

The Vision Impact Institute's mission is to raise awareness of the importance of vision correction and protection to make good vision a global priority. Its Advisory Board is comprised of five independent international experts: Pr. Kevin Frick (United States), Pr. Clare Gilbert (United Kingdom), Pr. Kovin Naidoo (South Africa), Mr. Arun Bharat Ram (India), and Dr. Wang Wei (China).

The Vision Impact Institute is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, which receives support from the Vision for Life Fund from Essilor, the world leader in ophthalmic optics. The Vision Impact Institute hosts an interactive web platform, a unique data base of research, available at visionimpactinstitute.org.

Contact Information

Andrea Kirsten-Coleman
Global Communications and Awareness Manager
214.870.7881
andrea.kirsten@visionimpactinstitute.org