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**Prevent Blindness Announces Recipient of
2018 Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and
Public Health**

***- Award to be presented to the Johns Hopkins University
School-Based Eye Care Team -***

CHICAGO (Feb. 28, 2018) – [Prevent Blindness](#), the nation's oldest volunteer eye health and safety organization, has announced the recipient of the 2018 Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health as the [Johns Hopkins University School-Based Eye Care](#) Team. Team members include Megan E. Collins, MD, MPH; David S. Friedman, MD, MPH, PhD; Michael X. Repka, MD, MBA; Robert E. Slavin, PhD; and Nancy A. Madden, PhD. The award will be presented at the 7th Annual Prevent Blindness [Focus on Eye Health National Summit](#) in Washington, D.C., on July 18, 2018.

Prevent Blindness created the Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health to recognize an individual, team, or organization that has made significant contributions to the advancement of public health related to vision and eye health at the community, state, national, and/or international level. The award is named for Mrs. Jenny Pomeroy, who served as CEO of [Prevent Blindness Georgia](#) from 1996 until 2013, and was an advocate for championing the role of public health in vision and eye care services and programs.

Members of the Johns Hopkins University School-Based Eye Care Team are part of Wilmer Eye Institute's Dana Center for Preventive Ophthalmology at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and Center for Research and Reform in Education at the Johns Hopkins University School of Education.

The team was selected for the award for their work investigating and addressing vision-related problems in high-poverty schools. This collaborative effort was designed to:

- increase access to pediatric eye care in high-poverty areas,
- develop and refine models for school-based vision programs,
- and advance research on the long-term impact of vision care on academic performance among students.

The team's first project in school-based eye care was the Baltimore Reading and Eye Disease Study. Based on results from their earlier work, they are now working in partnership with Baltimore City Health Department, Baltimore City Schools, Vision To Learn, and Warby Parker on "Vision for Baltimore," a city-wide school-based vision program.

The Johns Hopkins University team has now expanded this work, collaborating with Chicago Public Schools in the new "Vision for Chicago" research program to conduct a longitudinal assessment of the impact of glasses on academic performance, as well as the impact of a school-based professional development program on teacher engagement and student use of eyeglasses. With these projects, the team aims to lay the groundwork for reform of public school practices and national education policy regarding vision care, and potentially form alliances between educators and eye care professionals.

"The ultimate goal of our project is to ensure that all children in need of eye care and glasses receive them. By partnering with schools and educators, and providing the necessary tools, we believe we can achieve this," said Dr. Collins. "We thank Prevent Blindness for recognizing our team with this award and we are encouraged to continue this important work to improve the vision health of children across the country."

Past recipients of the Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health include John E. Crews, DPA, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Bruce Moore, OD, Marcus Professor of Pediatric Studies, New England College of Optometry.

"In 1908, Prevent Blindness was founded as an organization to prevent unnecessary vision loss in children. We are proud to continue that work today, and we want to recognize the outstanding efforts of others that have the same mission," said Hugh R. Parry, president and CEO of Prevent Blindness. "We congratulate the Johns Hopkins University team and hope their findings may be expanded to help children everywhere."

For more information on the Jenny Pomeroy Award for Excellence in Vision and Public Health, please call Prevent Blindness at (800) 331-2020 or visit preventblindness.org.

About Prevent Blindness

Founded in 1908, Prevent Blindness is the nation's leading volunteer eye health and safety organization dedicated to fighting blindness and saving sight. Focused on promoting a continuum of vision care, Prevent Blindness touches the lives of millions of people each year through public and professional education, advocacy, certified vision screening and training, community and patient service programs and research. These services are made possible through the generous support of the American public. Together with a network of affiliates, Prevent Blindness is committed to eliminating preventable blindness in America. For more information, or to make a contribution to the sight-saving fund, call (800) 331-2020. Or, visit us on the Web at preventblindness.org or facebook.com/preventblindness.

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