SPIE has launched a ground-breaking program offering endowment funding to expand educational opportunities in optics and photonics, or other disciplines allied to SPIE’s mission. SPIE will disburse up to $2.5 million in support of endowment matching over the next five years, typically for a named faculty position, chair, or scholarship needs.

Annually SPIE provides over $4 million in community support including scholarships and awards, outreach and advocacy programs, travel grants, public policy, and educational resources. The new endowment matching campaign is in addition to SPIE’s existing programs, broadening its support of the greater photonics community, specifically by growing the number of students graduating with degrees in optics or photonics.

The international society for optics and photonics

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“SPIE’s leadership and commitment is helping to scale-up the college with this new endowed faculty position, leading to more teaching, more research, and more students, enabling us to provide more expertise to the world... This is a critical and welcome investment in our faculty and students, and Jim Wyant’s generosity and vision transforms the SPIE $500,000 contribution into a $2,000,000 endowment.”

Thomas Koch, Dean of the James C. Wyant College of Optical Sciences at the University of Arizona, Inaugural Recipient of the SPIE Endowment Matching Program