



For Immediate Release
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For more information: Kira Baldonado
800-301-2020 ext.106

**THE REINBERGER FOUNDATION MAKES GRANT
TO PREVENT BLINDNESS OHIO**
Grant Supports Women's Vision Research Fellowships

COLUMBUS-To encourage young female scientists to enter the critical field of vision research, Prevent Blindness Ohio, with the financial support of The Reinberger Foundation, will provide assistance to six young investigators in 2008.

Grant awards will target projects that address the growing public health concern of vision loss among Ohio's aging populations. There are 1,259,000 older Ohioans affected by vision problems that if not detected and treated early, could lead to blindness. Because of the growth in the aging population, there will be more than 2.5 million Ohioans affected by vision-robbing conditions by the year 2030, largely resulting from the eye diseases of diabetic retinopathy, cataract, glaucoma, and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). The burden on our health care system, social/rehabilitative service programs, and quality of life will be staggering.

The Reinberger Foundation's support of this fellowship represents a significant investment in the intellectual capital of young research scientists seeking to discover treatments and cures for eye diseases that will have a lasting impact on Ohioans of all ages.

Prevent Blindness Ohio is accepting applications for its **2008 Young Investigator Student Fellowship Awards for Female Scholars in Vision Research**. Grants will be awarded for the summer 2008 session, average \$3000/award and commence on June 15, 2008. The deadline for receipt of applications is February 1, 2008. Applicants must be post-baccalaureate students enrolled in either a Master's or Doctorate program, female citizens and permanent residents of the United States and conducting their fellowship project with a recognized academic institution in the State of Ohio.

The Fellowship Program is designed to provide training support for future generations of outstanding female scientists committed to pursuing biomedical, behavioral or clinical research careers relevant to the mission of Prevent Blindness Ohio – to prevent blindness and preserve sight.

Prevent Blindness Ohio will give preference to fellowship applications which investigate public health issues related to the burden of eye-related health and safety topics and:

- Represent the interdisciplinary nature of research.
- Help translate research findings into improvements for health.
- Target the health problems of the nation's growing underrepresented minority populations that are not receiving adequate attention.

Applications from diverse fields in the health sciences including, but not limited to ophthalmology, optometry, nursing, genetics, public health, nutrition, gerontology, and bioengineering, are appropriate to the goals of this fellowship award.

For more information about the Fellowship Grant and/or to access an application form, contact Prevent Blindness Ohio at 800-301-2020 or info@pbohio.org. To download the application, go to http://www.preventblindness.org/Ohio/research_award.html

For more information on the Prevent Blindness Ohio Fellowship Award, or for free brochures on vision research and various eye diseases, call Prevent Blindness Ohio at 1-800-301-2020 or visit www.pbohio.org.

Prevent Blindness Ohio is celebrating 50 years as Ohio's leading volunteer nonprofit public health organization dedicated to preventing blindness and preserving sight. Founded in 1957 by U.S. Senator John Bricker and Lion's Club Member, Bob Morrison with support from Nationwide, the Ohio Department of Health and Delta Gamma Fraternity, PBO serves all 88 Ohio counties. We provide direct services to more than 800,000 Ohioans annually and educate millions of consumers about what they can do to protect and preserve their precious gift of sight. Prevent Blindness Ohio is an affiliate of Prevent Blindness America, the country's second-oldest national voluntary health organization. For more information or to make a contribution, visit our website at www.pbohio.org or call 800-301-2020.