

# Every accomplishment starts with a decision to try Chaque accomplissement commence par la décision d'essayer

by / par KIRSTEN NORTH, OD, PRESIDENT CAO/ PRÉSIDENTE DE L'ACO



Alanna Jankov

Dr. Len Koulton, Past President of CAO, extends a warm welcome during the President's Banquet to Dr. Kirsten North, CAO's new president. | Pendant le banquet du président, Le Dr. Len Koltun, président sortant, souhaite une chaleureuse bienvenue à la Dre. Kirsten North, nouvelle présidente de l'ACO.

I was 13 years old when I decided that this would be my goal in life, to become an optometrist. We had filled in a 100 question aptitude test and optometrist came back in the top five jobs I would be good at. I had no idea what that even was but with a little research soon determined that it was the right job for me. As I tailored my school curriculum to courses

aimed at getting into the University of Waterloo School of Optometry, I was told, don't put all your eggs in one basket – it's not that likely you will get into that school. Oh yeah, watch me. A math teacher told me, you are a girl and girls aren't good enough at math so you will never be an optometrist. Oh yeah, watch me. As I handed in my university application with only

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I am pleased that you have given me the opportunity to represent Canadian optometry as your president, and I will bring to this task the same determination I have used to get me this far. I look forward to meeting and working with equally determined optometrists from across this country to keep optometry tops in the minds of the public, politicians, professionals, and others when they think eyecare. If there is something that needs doing, just tell me I can't do it, then watch me.

J'avais 13 ans lorsque j'ai décidé que j'allais être optométriste. Après avoir répondu à un test d'aptitudes de 100 questions, j'ai appris que la profession d'optométriste était au nombre des cinq principaux emplois dans lesquels j'excelerais. Je n'avais aucune idée de ce que c'était, mais une petite recherche m'a vite permis de déterminer que ce

serait le bon travail pour moi. Lorsque j'ai choisi mes cours en fonction d'entrer à l'École d'optométrie de l'Université de Waterloo, on m'avait dit de ne pas mettre tous mes œufs dans le même panier, car il était probable que je ne pourrais pas entrer à cette école-là. Ah oui? Regardez-moi bien aller! Un enseignant de mathématiques m'avait dit que je ne serais jamais une optométriste parce que j'étais une fille, et que les filles n'ont pas assez de talent pour les mathématiques. Ah oui? Regardez-moi bien aller! Quand j'ai remis ma demande d'inscription à l'université, sur laquelle j'avais inscrit le nom d'une seule école, on m'avait dit de ne pas miser sur mon premier choix. Ah oui? Regardez-moi bien aller! Après six années d'études à Waterloo, j'ai reçu mon diplôme d'optométriste. J'adore mon travail et tout ce qu'il m'a apporté : une chance de mélanger art et science et de connaître différents patients, la liberté de joindre un cabinet ou d'en être propriétaire, et maintenant la chance de redonner. Un

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