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Introduction

This year in San Diego, California, we held the second conference on Optics Education and Outreach. This conference reported on activities from sharing the wonder of science and optics to the formal processes used to educate the next generation of scientists and engineers.

The conference was well attended and included six oral sessions and one poster session. The oral sessions were titled: Training Programs, Accreditation and Certification, Program Development, K12 Education, and two for Education Outreach. These sessions were held over two days of the entire Optics and Photonics 2012 meeting.

The Training Programs session covered programs to educate students entering technical positions in optics using in-class and in-company experiences. The Accreditation and Certification session presented talks on recent activities with ABET to offer accreditation for university optical engineering degrees and certification for fiber optics and photonics technicians. The Program Development session discussed college courses at community college and university levels to enhance learning outcomes in formal educational settings. The K-12 Programs session shared experiences in introducing optics to pre-college aged students while the Educational Outreach sessions gave talks showing programs aimed at audiences outside of any formal structure.

My thanks go to those who helped make this conference a success, especially the authors, audience, SPIE staff, and program committee. The authors share the credit for making this conference an unqualified success. The audience built upon this success by being active and asking engaging questions. The SPIE staff ensured that everything ran smoothly before, during, and after the meeting. The program committee provided excellent assistance to ensure the quality of the content while also presiding over a number of the sessions. It was composed of Anna Consortini, Barbara A. Darnell, Judith Donnelly, Robert Fischer, Ryan M. Hannahoe, Nancy J. Magnani, Brian Monacelli, Joseph J. Niemela, Kathleen B. Robinson, José Sasián, Donn Michael Silberman, Alexander R. Small, Cristina Solano, and Maria Josefa Yzuel.

The conference will return in two years. If you would like to assist with the 2014 or a later conference please contact me. We look forward to seeing you in 2014!

G. Groot Gregory

