PROFILE

Dr. Brigette Colley was born in Normal, IL, and was raised in Macomb. She is a 2013 graduate of the University of Missouri St. Louis College of Optometry. Prior to completing her optometric education, Dr. Colley earned a BA in Biology from Truman State University. In her sophomore year of high school, she was assigned a career speech. Her choir director, who had retinitis pigmentosa suggested she interview their local ophthalmologist. She reflects that she "was interested in a career in healthcare, but ophthalmology didn't feel like quite the right fit. I wanted a better balance in my career and family." After some research, she "found optometry seemed more aligned with my personal and professional goals." Dissecting a cow eye in human anatomy later that year solidified her desire to "care for others through a career in optometry." When asked what most influenced her decision to practice in Illinois, Dr. Colley responds that both she and her husband "have multiple generations of family in the Macomb area. It was our desire for our children to be able to grow up around their grandparents and great-grandparents. We were also happy to come back and live and serve in the community we grew up in."

BOARD MEMBER FEATURE:
Brigette Colley, O.D.

WHAT SHE LOVES MOST ABOUT HER JOB

"I love taking care of multiple generations of the same family. The community connections and interactions strengthen my relationship with my patients. I love really getting to know them and what approach I can take to best help them."

UNUSUAL OR SURPRISING DIAGNOSIS

"In my short 9-year career, I have identified four separate patients with brain tumors."

ADVICE FOR NEW OPTOMETRISTS

"You never know the circumstances of a patient's life when they walk into your building and sit in your examination chair. Try to be the person that makes their day better because they got to spend a small portion of it with you."

HOW SHE SPENDS HER FREE TIME

"I have three small children, ages 9, 7, and 4, so at this point, my spare time is their time."