

# ABOUT DR. POSTON

Dr. Marvin R. Poston (1915 – 2002) was the first Black American admitted to the University of California, Berkeley School of Optometry. Upon graduation in 1939, he became the first Black American licensed to practice on the West Coast.

In 1955, Dr. Poston and colleagues formed California Vision Services. The innovative company was the first to offer prepaid vision plans providing high-quality, cost-effective eye care. Now known as VSP® Vision Care, it has become the largest vision benefits provider in the nation.

Dr. Poston established vision screening programs for underserved individuals. The Children’s Vision Center of the East Bay, West Oakland Health Group, and East Bay Skill Center are a few of the organizations benefited by his efforts.

Dr. Poston was the first Black American to be honored as Optometrist of the Year by the American Optometric Association and the California Optometric Association. He was appointed to three terms on the California State Board of Optometry by state governors, Brown and Reagan.

