

Starkey Press Release

F O R I M M E D I A T E R E L E A S E

January 10, 2005

Starkey First offers professional training, student workshops and graduate student scholarships.

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. – Starkey is pleased to announce course offerings for Starkey First, the company's 2005 educational outreach program. Starkey First includes professional training, audiology student workshops and the William F. Austin Scholarship for audiology graduate students.

All Starkey First training takes place at the company's new state-of-the-art training facility, the William F. Austin Center For Hearing Excellence, in Eden Prairie, Minn. The Center utilizes cutting-edge multimedia and training tools to provide hands-on learning opportunities in a comfortable and relaxed environment.

Professional Training

Starkey First's professional development courses address the most vital areas of building and maintaining a competitive practice. Courses are designed for professionals seeking to broaden their non-dispensing and patient-care skills to operate a more successful hearing care practice.

Starkey First helps professionals broaden vital business and patient-care skills with unique learning opportunities that focus on a variety of relevant, hands-on curricula. Two-day classes focus on Business, Marketing, Fitting, Patients, Staffing and Products. Each class will be offered in January, February, May, July, October and December.

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Starkey Marketing Services

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To arrange for participation in any Starkey First class, professionals should contact their sales representative or visit www.starkeyfirst.com.

Student Workshop

The goal of the workshop is to provide information and instruction on a wide variety of subjects, but it is not meant to be a hearing aid course. Instruction focuses on topics currently of interest in the field and areas not typically included in academic curricula. Subjects include digital signal processing, advanced hearing aid technology, patient management and rehabilitation and practice management.

The 2005 workshop is scheduled for August 4-6. Application deadline for the workshop is June 1, 2005. There is a workshop application fee of \$150, payable by check or credit card on or before June 1, 2005. Starkey will defray the majority of the costs for participation in the workshop. Application materials are available by visiting www.starkeyfirst.com or by calling 800.328.8602.

Starkey First's workshop faculty consists of the many talented and experienced audiologists, engineers, technicians, business and industry-trained personnel located at the company's world headquarters campus in Eden Prairie, Minn. Notable guest speakers will also share their expertise and interact with participants.

Workshop applicants must be registered students in good standing in an accredited university program or recent graduates of such a program and must have successfully completed at least one hearing instrument course. Audiologists are also eligible for the workshop, provided that application is made within one year of completion of graduate studies or an Au.D.

William F. Austin Scholarship

Starkey is pleased to offer the 2005 William F. Austin Scholarship, available to audiology graduate students. The goal of the scholarship is to support strong candidates pursuing clinical, teaching and research careers in audiology. Up to five \$10,000 scholarships will be available for the 2005-2006 academic year.

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The scholarship application deadline is also June 1, 2005. Notification of scholarship selection will be made no later than July 15, 2005. Application materials are available by visiting www.starkeyfirst.com or by calling 800.328.8602.

Additional Training

Starkey also offers regular product and software training throughout the United States. CEUs are available for certain classes and are subject to state approval. To learn more about Starkey's variety of student and professional training opportunities, visit www.starkeyfirst.com or call 800.328.8602.

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About Starkey Laboratories

Headquartered in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Starkey Laboratories, Inc. is a worldwide provider of comprehensive digital hearing systems, including custom and standard devices, protection products, instrumentation and unique business solutions. Founded in 1967, Starkey owns and operates manufacturing and sales facilities in 22 countries, including the Audibel, MicroTech, NuEar, Omni and Qualitone companies. Starkey is the recognized world leader in the design and development of innovative custom digital hearing instruments. For more information visit www.starkey.com.

