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Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA); Wednesday, June 1, 2022

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Georgia Eye Bank President & CEO Awarded Eye Banking's Highest Honor

Eric Meinecke, CEBT, earns Leonard Heise Award for dedication to eye banking, corneal transplantation, the restoration of sight.

Baltimore, MD—The [Eye Bank Association of America](#) (EBAA), the world's oldest transplant association and nationally-recognized accrediting and standards setting body for eye banks, today announced Eric Meinecke, CEBT, of the Georgia Eye Bank as winner of the 2022 [Leonard Heise Award](#). The Heise Award is the association's most prestigious honor presented to a non-physician eye banker in recognition of their outstanding devotion to the eye banking profession and for exemplifying the precepts of Leonard Heise, one of EBAA's founders.

"Eric is a devoted leader in eye banking," said EBAA President & CEO, Kevin Corcoran. "His service on EBAA committees and other transplant organization boards are just a small part of his greater service to eye banking, corneal transplantation, and the restoration of sight."

There are an estimated 12 million individuals around the world suffering from corneal blindness that could be corrected with a corneal transplant. There is no artificial cornea—the transplantation process depends on the priceless gift of donation from one human to another. Nearly anyone can be a cornea donor, as blood-type, eye color, vision quality, and age are not relevant to donation.

EBAA will present the 2022 Heise award to Eric Meinecke at the [2022 EBAA Annual Meeting](#) in Baltimore, MD during an awards dinner on Friday, June 3.

The Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA), established in 1961, is the oldest transplant association in the U.S. It sets standards, provides education, and engages in advocacy to support eye donation, cornea transplantation, and research. EBAA leads the transplantation field by establishing medical standards for eye banking, and comprehensive training and certification programs for eye bank personnel. Since EBAA's founding, member eye banks have provided tissue for more than 2 million sight-restoring corneal transplants. To learn more, visit restoresight.org.