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## **Graystone Eye Announces Andrew Tate as New CEO**

**Hickory, NC (May 8, 2024):** Graystone Eye, a leading ophthalmic practice serving the community since 1969, is pleased to announce Andrew Tate as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective May 13th, 2024. Mr. Tate succeeds Sheree Watson, who retired earlier this month.

### **Extensive Search Leads to Ideal Candidate**

Following a national search, and comprehensive selection process that considered numerous qualified individuals, the Board of Directors at Graystone Eye identified Andrew Tate as the perfect fit to lead the practice forward. He joined the team in February 2024 to ensure a smooth transition and will officially assume the CEO role on May 13th.

### **A Leader with Deep Healthcare Experience**

A North Carolina native from Elkin, Mr. Tate brings a wealth of experience to Graystone Eye. He holds degrees in human occupational studies and occupational therapy from Lenoir-Rhyne University, along with a Master of Health Administration with a leadership focus from Appalachian State University.

Mr. Tate's career began as an occupational therapist at Hugh Chatham Memorial Hospital. He quickly emerged as a leader, taking on roles such as lead therapist and Clinical Therapies Program Manager. His leadership journey continued as he became the Executive Director of Yadkin Valley Home Health, the Rehabilitation Service Line, Specialty Practice Administrator, and ultimately Vice President of Ambulatory Services/Chief Practice Officer. In this most recent role, he oversaw 29 physician practices with over 100 providers, along with multiple hospital departments, physician recruitment efforts, and accountable care organizations. His impressive scope of responsibility encompassed several hundred employees across various locations.

### **Passionate About Patient Care and Community**

Andrew Tate shares his enthusiasm about leading Graystone Eye: "Graystone Eye is a truly special place that's been serving our community for over 50 years. With its 15 highly skilled and compassionate physicians serving patients across four outpatient locations and the Graystone surgery center, it's an honor to lead such an impressive group. Our unwavering commitment to quality outcomes and exceptional patient experiences remains our top priority. As a proud Lenoir-Rhyne University graduate and lifelong North Carolinian, I'm deeply invested in ensuring convenient access to high-quality healthcare within our communities. Throughout my career, and most recently at Hugh Chatham Health, I've championed this goal of expanded healthcare access. Now, I'm eager to focus that passion on ensuring everyone in our service area receives the critical eye care they deserve."

### **Looking Ahead**

With Andrew Tate's leadership, Graystone Eye is poised to continue its legacy of exceptional patient care and community service. The practice remains dedicated to providing the latest ophthalmic technologies and treatments, delivered by a team of dedicated professionals.