



## Man Turns To IT Studies in Poor Economy

### Keiser University Offers Students Many Different Career Options with IT Degree

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**JACKSONVILLE, Fla.** -- At 37 years old, Michael Dalton is a college freshman for the second time. "I was in the mortgage and real estate business for quite some time until I guess you can say the recession or the economy took a turn, and I decided it was time to get into a different field," Dalton said. Ready for a brand new start, this time around he chose the field of IT -- information technology. "I was already to the point where I was working on my friends' or family's computers, small repairs," Dalton said.

Not only did he enjoy working with computers, but he also figured that after graduation he'd have better luck finding a job.

Dalton's new career path began in the halls of Keiser University, where he met other students who agree that in the current economy, IT is a good way to go.

"If you get a degree in IT, there are so many different areas you can work in," said Sharon Bazil, a professor in the IT department at Keiser. "You have web design, software support, computer repair, computer trouble shooting."

Bazil said computer degrees come in handy in a down-turned economy, and the proof is in the numbers. Staffing firm Robert Half International Inc. included several IT positions on its list of the top 10 positions for job seekers in 2010. Specifically, the firm notes high pay and demand for network administrators and IT security managers, along with system engineers.

"The way technology is growing, technology is growing such that they need IT people to handle the growth," Bazil said.

Dalton said the mid-life career change hasn't been easy.

"It's very intimidating," he said. "It's one thing to sit in front of a computer or work on it. It's totally different to work on it in a book."

Still, he's hopeful that it will be worthwhile.

Because technology is advancing at such a fast pace, it's no surprise companies are hiring those who can keep them on the cutting edge.

Dalton said he's feeling confident that when he graduates from Keiser, he'll secure a good job in the field.