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Keiser to Graduate Largest Class in its History

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Tallahassee, FL— Karen Yawn, Tallahassee mother of three, is taking the notion of following in her mother's footsteps very seriously. When she delivers the valedictorian speech to a record setting number of graduates this Friday night at Keiser University's commencement, she will be standing in the same spot her mother, Janet Egbert, did just one year ago. Egbert was Keiser University's Class of 2008 valedictorian. Yawn and Egbert have earned bachelor's degrees in criminal justice.

Keiser University's 2009 graduating class will take the stage at the Tallahassee Antique Car Museum located at 6800 Mahan Drive on May 15, at 6:00 p.m. State Representative Marti Coley (H-7) will deliver the commencement address as the graduates accept their college degrees before hundreds of friends and families that have supported them on this journey. □

Doris Wilderman, mother of two and grandmother of seven will serve as co-salutatorian after earning her Bachelor's of Science in Nursing degree. Wilderman has been accepted into the Master's of Science in Nursing Education program at Grand Canyon University where she'll continue her education en route to fulfilling her dream of becoming a nurse educator. Camille Cesar, is Wilderman's co-salutatorian earning a Bachelor's of Arts in Criminal Justice. After attending Keiser's Tallahassee campus, Cesar is pursuing a career in the legal field in central Florida.

"While we are extraordinarily proud of all of our graduates, it is especially rewarding to know that the students that earned the distinctions of Valedictorian and Salutatorians are recipients of the Access to Better Learning and Education grant," stated Belinda Keiser, Vice Chancellor of Community Relations and Student Advancement. In light of the state's funding challenges, it is a true testament to how important the ABLE grant is to deserving students pursuing their educational and professional goals at Florida's regionally accredited, career focused universities. We couldn't be more proud of our graduates," she added.

"It is an honor to announce the Tallahassee campus's largest graduating class," said Barbara Loven, campus president. While attending Keiser University, our typical student is employed either full- or part- time, they are often parents and between 25 to 35 years in age. Often times, these students are first in their families to attend college and their graduation is the dream they have been working so hard to achieve. In these difficult economic times, it is empowering for these students to have earned this accomplishment making them more competitive in the job market and poised for leadership in their communities, added Loven.

Keiser University is Florida's leading statewide provider of career-focused, post-secondary education and is regionally accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Keiser University serves approximately 15,000 students seeking associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in over 40 high demand degree programs at its 13 campuses and through its online and Graduate School divisions. The Graduate School opened in 2006 and offers the MBA among a variety of master's degrees in education and criminal justice. Keiser University's educational reach extends globally through its international programs including the Latin Division and cooperative agreements in China and the Eastern European nation of Moldova.

According to a Community College Week analysis of U. S. Department of Education data released June 16, 2008, Keiser University was named the nationwide leader in production of Associate of Science graduates in Health Professions and Related Sciences for the third straight year (2006-2008).

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