

KEISER
UNIVERSITY
TALLAHASSEE CAMPUS

NEWS RELEASE--Immediate Release

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KEISER UNIVERSITY VICE CHANCELLOR TO INTRODUCE HER FORMER HIGH SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, STATE SENATOR BILL MONTFORD, AT KEISER'S 2012 COMMENCEMENT

Tallahassee, FL—June 12—On Feb. 16, 2012, Belinda Keiser stood before the Florida Senate Commerce Committee prepared to answer questions related to her swearing in as Governor Rick Scott's recent re-appointee to the Enterprise Florida, Inc. (EFI) Board of Directors. While there were few questions for Keiser, given her known expertise in the areas served by EFI, one member did have two serious, yet, poignant questions.

"Belinda," he asked, "Where are you from?" Keiser replied, "I grew up right here, Sir, in Tallahassee". Second, he asked, "And, who was your outstanding principal?" "You were, Sir," she proudly answered. Having known one another for years, the mutual sentiments of admiration and respect were evident.

Keiser is a graduate of Godby High School and the member questioning her that day was State Senator Bill Montford. In celebration of Keiser University's Tallahassee campus 2012 commencement, Keiser will introduce her former principal as the keynote speaker.

"Senator Montford has lived his life with a commitment to public service and quality education and I'm proud to have been one of his students," said Keiser. "It is an honor and a privilege to introduce a leader of the highest integrity and I am looking forward to the words of wisdom he will impart to our Keiser University graduates on this very special evening in their lives," she added.

The graduation event takes place at Lawton Chiles High School located at 7200 Lawton Chiles Lane on Jun. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

Senator Montford was elected to the Florida Senate, District 6 in November 2010 and also serves as the Chief Executive Officer of the Florida Association of District School Superintendents. Throughout his nearly four decades in education and public service, he has held the positions of School Superintendent of Leon County, Godby High School principal, Leon County Commissioner and middle school math teacher.

As a member of the Florida Senate, Senator Montford has been appointed to several committees including Agriculture, Budget, Commerce and Tourism, Education Pre-K-12, Governmental Oversight and Accountability, Reapportionment, the Budget Subcommittee on Education Pre-K-12 Appropriations in which he serves as Vice Chair, the Budget Subcommittee on Higher Education Appropriations, the Joint Administrative Procedures Committee, the Joint Select Committee on Collective Bargaining, and the Public Service Commission Nominating Council.

Keiser University's Tallahassee campus originally opened in 1992 and the Graduate School annex opened at 1276 Metropolitan Boulevard in January 2011. The local campuses serve approximately 600

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students, employ over 100 staff and faculty and the largest degree programs are nursing, occupational therapy assistant and culinary arts.

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About: Statewide Keiser University (KU) serves nearly 18,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees on 14 campuses, employing nearly 3,500 staff and faculty. The university has been regionally accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1991 and is a Level VI institution.

Sixty-two percent of KU students graduate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and healthcare fields, providing the talented workforce necessary for Florida to compete globally. The University ranks 1st in Florida and 2nd in the nation in production of Associate of Science graduates in healthcare professions and 2nd in Florida and 3rd in the nation in production of Associate of Science in nursing graduates*.

Keiser University's educational reach extends globally through its international programs including the Latin Division, a cooperative agreement in the Eastern European nation of Moldova, and a campus in Shanghai, China.

**Source: Community College Week evaluation of US. Dept. of Ed--Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System IPEDS 2010 Rank*