

KEISER UNIVERSITY

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Keiser University Student/Graduate Named to Prestigious National Hall of Fame

Tallahassee, FL—June 25—Brenda Bowman Sizemore is no stranger to high honors. She is the City of Havana's first female police sergeant and most recently the recipient of the national Hall of Fame award from the Career College Association. Sizemore, a Bachelor's of Arts in Criminal Justice graduate from Keiser University's Tallahassee campus and a current Master's in Criminal Justice student, received her award at the association's annual conference in Orlando last week.



Brenda Bowman Sizemore accepts national CCA Hall of Fame Award with her daughters—photo courtesy of Ed Macdonald Photography

“If there was ever a case study in perseverance and where education can take you, Brenda Bowman Sizemore is it,” said CCA President Harris N. Miller. “Brenda didn’t just come from humble beginnings; she has overcome countless obstacles in her quest to get an education so she can have the career of her dreams. She has overcome the death of loved ones, severe poverty, a brain illness and teen pregnancy on her path to success. CCA could not be happier to induct Mrs. Sizemore into the CCA Hall of Fame for all that she has accomplished.”

Brenda Bowman Sizemore maintained 4.0 and 3.8 grade point averages, respectively in her Associate and Bachelor's programs. On the streets and with child by the age of 15, Sizemore was able to complete a miraculous life turnaround by overcoming abject poverty, a debilitating brain illness and lack of education by starting her own minority-owned cleaning business.

The CCA Hall of Fame recognizes outstanding career college graduates who have achieved noteworthy success in their career fields. Other Hall of Fame members include celebrity chefs Bobby Flay and Alton Brown, couture gown designer Edgardo Bonilla, Carol Guzy, a Pulitzer Prize winning photographer for the Washington Post, and actor Julio Cedillio.

Below are excerpts Sizemore wrote in an essay about her life as part of her nomination:

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Like many, as a child I had dreams of going to college and having a wonderful career, yet family tragedy, poverty and reality pointed me toward a very different type of life.

In the year 2003, I decided to enroll in college and selected Keiser College's Criminal Justice course. The flexible course schedule would allow me to continue to clean while attending college. I remember I was terrified when I went to enroll and I even convinced myself that I was crazy for entering college at the age of 28 with three young children. I was used to wearing cut off shorts and bleached stained t-shirts, not professional business attire.

After my first night of college I learned the importance of goal setting and how navigating through life's detours is acceptable as long as you keep your goals in sight.

After so many struggles and accomplishments I no longer took what others said at face value. I was now educated in research and supportive findings thanks to the persistence of Keiser University and their instructors.

I was accepted into the Masters in Criminal Justice program and began classes again on October 27, 2008. I am scheduled to graduate in December of 2009. In addition to this great accomplishment I was promoted to sergeant in February of 2009 by the Town of Havana. Afterwards, I learned that I was the first female officer promoted to this rank in Havana history.

During the application process for sergeant, one of the criteria's used to select the applicant was "education". I truly believe that if I had not had the level of education that I possess the position would have once again passed another female officer. Looking back on my life I acknowledge that obtaining an education is what pulled me from the brinks of poverty, tragedy and unemployment to become the person I am today.

The Career College Association (CCA) is a voluntary membership organization of accredited, private postsecondary schools, institutes, colleges and universities that provide career-specific educational programs. CCA has more than 1,600 members that educate and support over one million students each year for employment in over 200 occupational fields. CCA member institutions provide the full range of higher education programs: short-term certificate and diploma programs, two- and four-year associate and baccalaureate degree programs, and masters and doctoral degree programs. Visit CCA on the web at www.career.org

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). Visit Keiser University at www.keiseruniversity.edu.

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