Keiser University becomes nonprofit

South Florida Business Journal - by Brian Bandell


Date: Tuesday, January 18, 2011, 4:30pm EST

Keiser University has shed its for-profit roots and been granted nonprofit status.

The Fort Lauderdale-based university was sold by Arthur and Belinda Keiser to Everglades College Inc., a nonprofit that owns Everglades University, a separately run institution. It is managed by a nine-member board, which Arthur Keiser recently stepped down from. Keiser said he would remain chancellor and CEO of Keiser University for the foreseeable future.

He called it a family planning situation. He did not disclose the amount he sold it for.

“The institution has gotten very large in the last 35 years,” Keiser said. “We always looked at the institution as serving the community. Moving to nonprofit is a good way for us to have an exit strategy and ensure the legacy of the family and the legacy of the university.”

It also exempts Keiser University from certain taxes and makes it eligible for federal grants, donations and tax-free bonds. All of its real estate is leased.

Keiser University has 18,000 students and 3,500 employees on 14 campuses. It focuses on courses for older students in high-demand careers.

Keiser said the university grew by 300 employees last year, and should add 200 more in 2011.

“This helps transfer some of the responsibility to the board, but I still will be driving this institution and leading it,” Keiser said.