

# KEISER UNIVERSITY

## **News Release-For Immediate Release**

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## **Keiser University Students Use National Grant Award to Educate Children in Haiti**

West Palm Beach, Florida—Nov. 11, 2008—When Keiser University professor Dr. Connie Duke heard the call for service learning grant applicants from Pearsons Learning Solutions, she thought for a second, completed the application, and then, didn't give it a second thought. This past month she learned that her English Composition II class would be one of the 20 national grant recipients to develop a service learning project.

Inspired by the movie *Pay if Forward* and tragic hurricane devastation in Haiti, the class selected the Art Creation Foundation for Children, whose mission is to "teach Haitian street children art so that they may have a future." According to the foundation's website [www.artforhaitianchildren.org](http://www.artforhaitianchildren.org), all of the children were between ages 6 and 11 when they enrolled in the program; they had never attended school nor did they eat on a regular basis. Many of the children are orphaned and are destined to life on the streets.

"I'm awe inspired with my students and their desire and commitment to work hard on behalf of this worthy foundation," said Duke. The educational philosophy of Keiser University is career focused and community service is inherent in our mission. Service learning projects prepare students to not only be successful in their careers, but to be better citizens and well-rounded employees.

As part of the project, Duke's students held a silent auction of original art pieces created by three talented Haitian artists to raise funds for the organization with proceeds of \$700.00. They will also collaboratively research, write a business plan, carry out the project and write about this rewarding experience and how they will promote service learning in their careers.

The silent auction was held on Monday, Nov. 10 during an opening reception for the community to celebrate the university's First Annual Graphic Design Show. Graphic Students will be competing in the categories of Advertising and Layout, 3-D Animation, Web Design, Logo Design, Movie Posters, and Photo Manipulation. The student art will be on display at Keiser University located at 2085 Vista Parkway in West Palm Beach through Nov. 14.

The conditions these special children are faced with is overwhelming and this organization has touched our hearts and propelled us to pay our good fortunes--the grant award and access to education--forward, added Duke.

Keiser University is Florida's leading private, statewide provider of career-focused, post-secondary education and is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Keiser University serves approximately 13,000 students seeking associate, bachelor's and master's degrees in over 40 high demand degree programs at its 13 campuses, the Graduate School and the online division.

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).

For more information on Keiser University, visit [www.keiseruniversity.edu](http://www.keiseruniversity.edu).