**NEWS RELEASE--***Immediate Release*

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**Keiser University Celebrates Occupational Therapy Month**

Ft. Myers, FL—April 22, 2014— April is Occupational Therapy Month so Keiser University (KU), which offers an Associate in Science degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) at 11 of its campuses, including Ft. Myers, has made it a point to highlight the field.  Occupational Therapy is the art and science of helping people gain skills needed to become independent in daily living activities.  Students learn the therapeutic use of self-care, work and play/leisure activities to maximize independent function, enhance development, prevent disability and maintain health.

The American Occupational Therapy Association has designated April to be Occupational Therapy Month – “Living Life To Its Fullest” - so we at KU want to shine a spotlight on our program and highlight some of our exceptional students and graduates who have chosen a career that enables people of all ages to regain their mobility and functionality in their day to day life.

A recent graduate of the Ft. Myers OTA program, Kevin O’Donnell, has found his dream job at a rehabilitation facility where he is able to work closely with patients who need his attentive style of care.  At 61 years old, he has had experience dealing with a variety of people and circumstances which enhances his skill-sets with his patients.  Prior to moving to Florida, he was an elementary school teacher in upstate New York.  When he moved to Florida he chose to change careers and transitioned into the construction industry where he remained for 25 years.  When the housing market started to slow, he realized it was time to pursue one of his dreams, which was a career in health care.  He earned Associate degrees in Medical Assisting and Radiologic Technology but neither of these satisfied his need to help people and see them improve due to his influence.  When the Ft. Myers campus of KU started their OTA program, he researched it and knew this was the perfect fit for his outgoing personality.

“I truly enjoy helping people and had a strong desire to be a part of their rehabilitation and knew that with this degree I would be an integral part of someone’s recovery process,” stated Kevin O’Donnell.

The program includes clinical affiliations at the areas’ hospitals, rehabilitation centers, skilled nursing facilities, schools, and private clinics.  An Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) works under the supervision of a licensed occupational therapist to help people of all ages enhance their performance of important everyday activities such as work, education and self-care despite the effects of illness, disability or injury.

**About:** Keiser University is a private, not-for-profit university serving nearly 20,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees on 15 campuses, online and internationally, employing 3,500 staff and faculty.

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.

Keiser University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award certificates and degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, masters, and doctoral levels. Contact the Commission on Colleges at 1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097 or call 404-679-4500 for questions about the accreditation of Keiser University.

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