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

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**State Representative Joe Gibbons Serves as Commencement Speaker for the College of Advanced Technology**

Pembroke Pines, FL—May 15, 2014—Keiser University’s Pembroke Pines administration and faculty are proud to welcome State Representative Joe Gibbons as the 2014 commencement ceremony speaker. The event takes place at the Coral Springs Center for the Performing Arts located at 2855 Coral Springs Drive on Friday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m.

The over 300 graduates will be addressed by State Representative Joe Gibbons, who was elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2006. Prior to having been elected he served one term as a City Commissioner in Hallandale Beach, where he has lived since 1996. As a business person, Joe Gibbons has earned numerous awards and recognitions for his business achievements and community service. He was appointed to the White House Conference on Small Business and recognized on the cover of Nations Business Magazine for his dedication to advancing “Small Business Initiatives”. He was recognized by the Small Business Administration as the “Minority Business Person of the Year” for the Midwest Region.

“This year we are excited that our first cohort of students in the Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition completed the program and will be receiving their diplomas.  As our society focuses more on diet and the related health benefits, the demand for professionals in the field of Dietetics continues to grow,” said Cecil Kidd, Campus President.  “A diverse group of businesses and organizations are utilizing the skills of Registered Dieticians including health care facilities, the military, grocery stores, restaurants and other food service providers.”

This spring, close to 5,000 Keiser University graduates will cross stages throughout the state signifying completion of their college degrees and the beginning of the next chapter in their professional lives. The Class of 2014 is proud to recognize their Valedictorian Elyse Peele. Peele, an international student, earned her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition. Upon graduation she plans to return to Trinidad and open her own dietetics practice.

Also being featured during this commencement ceremony will be the Salutatorian, Jenny McCook who earned her Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies. The Graduate of Distinction will be Aimara Agustin who earned her Associate of Arts in Paralegal Studies.

**About:** Keiser University is a private, not-for-profit university serving nearly 20,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees on 17 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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