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

Contact:  Kimberly Dale / 954-849-5304 / [kdale@keiseruniversity.edu](mailto:kdale@keiseruniversity.edu)

**State Representative Darryl Rouson Delivers Commencement Address for the Keiser University Sarasota Graduates**

Sarasota, FL—May 15, 2014—The faculty and staff of the Sarasota campus, join in celebration with the family and friends of the more than 330 graduates who will be attending their commencement ceremony on Friday, May 16. The ceremony will take place at 7:00 p.m. at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, which is located at One Haben Blvd. in Palmetto. The keynote speaker for this graduating class will be State Representative Darryl Rouson.

The Class of 2014 will receive their keynote address from Representative Rouson who has served in the Florida Legislature for 6 years after being elected in 2008. Current Committee assignments include Appropriations, Regulatory Affairs, business & Professional Regulation Subcommittee, and the Justice Appropriations Subcommittee. Outside of the Florida House of Representatives he is a prosecutor in Pinellas County who graduated from law school at the University of Florida in 1980.

“This ceremony is the culmination of all the hours of hard work put forth by our students, with their ultimate dream of achieving a better future for themselves and their families,” said David Reid, Campus President. “One of our exceptional success stories is a mother-daughter team who will be walking on Friday after going through the Nursing program together.”

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. Crossing the stage in Sarasota as the valedictorian will be Johanna Baird who earned her degree in Elementary Education and also completed the Leadership Distinction Program. The salutatorian for this class will be Laura Gamsby, also having earned her degree in Elementary Education.

**About:** Keiser University (KU) is a private, not-for-profit university serving nearly 20,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees on 15 campuses and online and employing nearly 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.

# # #