Keiser University to expand Melbourne campus

Mackenzie Ryan, FLORIDA TODAY 6:22 p.m. EDT July 23, 2014

MELBOURNE – Construction of a new, $7 million building at Keiser University will soon provide additional classroom and lab space for new bachelor’s degrees and other programs.

The 30,000 square foot building, constructed on property leased from the Melbourne International Airport, will include 22 classrooms, an auditorium and labs for a bachelor’s in dietetics and nutrition, among other programs.

“It’s exciting,” said Palm Bay resident Mary Tinucci, 42, who’s enrolled in the school’s medical assistant program. “It’s a great school to come to.”

The new programs are expected to draw more than 300 additional students to the Melbourne campus, which currently serves about 1,100 students.

“It allows us to better serve our community and better serve our students,” said Arthur Keiser, chancellor of the university. “It’s natural growth.”

The Melbourne campus already offers 42 programs, and additional bachelor’s degrees include biomedical sciences, aviation management, and business administration with a concentration in logistics and transportation.
In addition, a physical therapy assistant associate’s degree will be offered, as will on-campus classes for graduate degrees that were previously only available to local students online.

The university uses a format that differs from traditional colleges, one that is designed to serve working adults and those with families: Students take one class during every four weeks, instead of multiple courses a semester.

Megan Stone has said the one-class focus was a good fit. She attended Florida Tech but found the business program wasn’t a good fit.

She enrolled in the occupational therapy assistant program, and found the format helpful in raising her two-year-old son.

“It’s great for the community,” the Cocoa Beach resident said of the expansion and additional degrees. “There’s more options.

The new building could open as soon as spring of 2015.

Part of the plans include tearing down a nearby building that formerly housed a restaurant. In addition, Keiser’s current building will receive a new facade, and additional parking will be added.

Ryan is at 242-3664 or mryan@floridatoday.com. Follow her on Twitter @Mackenzie_Ryan.

About Keiser University
The private university serves more than 18,000 students on 15 campuses across Florida, online and at two international campuses: in Shanghai, China and San Marcos, Nicaragua. More than 1,100 students attend the Melbourne campus, which opened in 1989. For more information visit keiseruniversity.edu.