**NEWS RELEASE –** Immediate Release

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**The HOSA Florida Region IX Winter Leadership Conference and Competition was Held at the West Palm Beach Campus of Keiser University**

*Approximately 850 high school and post-secondary students competed*

West Palm Beach, FL –Feb. 5, 2015— The West Palm Beach campus of [Keiser University](http://www.keiseruniversity.edu) (KU) was pleased to host the HOSA (Health Occupation Students of America) Florida Region IX Winter Leadership Conference and Competition for the third year in a row. The event took place on Friday, Jan. 31 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the campus located at 2085 Vista Parkway in West Palm Beach.

The conference included healthcare competitions among and high schools, as well as postsecondary schools in the Region IX division. There were close to 850 students from Indian River, Port St. Lucie, Okeechobee, Palm Beach, and Martin Counties who competed in various competitions including clinical nursing, dental science, CPR/First-aid, interview skills, and a variety of other categories.

“We continue to see our students thrive during this competition and are pleased to see them achieve recognition for their academic efforts,” shared James Van Allan, Board of Directors member for Region IX and KU faculty member. Van Allan will also serve as a conference keynote speaker at the general session in March in front of 3,500 students, guests, and advisors.

Keiser University’s Port St. Lucie and West Palm Beach campuses had post-secondary students who competed in events during this competition and all will move on to the State Competition. From Port St. Lucie and West Palm Beach, the students who competed and placed first in their categories were Francesca Maglione, Dietetics and Nutrition major / category - Knowledge Test: Nutrition; Elizabeth Roper, Medical Assisting major /category- Extemporaneous Health Poster; Lala Stollar, Medical Assisting major / category - Medical Photography; Alyssa Smoke, Medical Assisting major / category – Medical Assisting; Nicole Klein, Psychology major / category – Researched Persuasive Speaking; Angelica Jaramillo, General Studies major / category Medical Photography.

The students who competed and ranked in the top three for each category, will move on to the State Leadership Conference being held in Orlando at Disney’s Coronado Springs from March 26-29. The state conference will host over 3,500 students from across the state with over 65 different events.

“Keiser University is proud to have, again, had the opportunity to host the regional HOSA competition,” stated Kimberly Lea, Campus President in West Palm Beach. “There are over 70,000 students nationwide enrolled in HOSA and Florida has the second highest membership in the country. The dedication and hard work of these students and their supporting faculty is amazing.”

HOSA is a national student organization endorsed by the U.S. Department of Education and the Health Science Education Division of the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE). The goal of this organization is “to promote career opportunities in the health care industry and to enhance the delivery of quality health care to all people.”

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**About Keiser University:** 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. Over 20 percent of Keiser University students are members of the armed services, veterans, or military family members.

Keiser University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges 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.