**NEWS RELEASE –** Immediate Release

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**Keiser University Occupational Therapy Assistant Students**

**Give Back to the Community**

*Keiser University students from the Melbourne campus joined with Running Zone for the 6th Annual Brevard PALS 5K Run/Walk for Autism Awareness*

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Melbourne, FL—March 9, 2015 — Keiser University’s mission includes the importance of service to the community. On February 21, 2015, a group of Occupational Therapy Assistant students from the Melbourne campus joined up with the Running Zone for the 5K Run/Walk for Autism Awareness, which took place at the Florida Institute of Technology’s Scott Center for Autism Treatment.

Students from the Occupational Therapy Assistant program participated in the walk, along with other volunteers from the campus. Many faculty and staff members were positioned along the walk path in order to cheer on the students and show encouragement for their efforts on behalf of autism treatment.

“We are grateful to the Director of Brevard PALS and a strong supporter of our OTA students for inviting us to participate in this event,” said Megan Groth, OTA student and Student Occupational Therapy Association President at the Melbourne campus of Keiser University. Brevard PALS provides scholarships for those affected by autism to attend their summer camps, where OTA students from the campus also volunteer.

Congratulations are in order for OTA student runners, Miguel Caceres II for coming in 3rd place in the men’s 30-34 age group: 30-34, Melanie Turner 1st place overall female champion, Jaden Deming, 2nd place in the female age group: 35-39 and for Pam Wilkins-Smith for coming in 9th place for female age group: 45-49.

Each year the Melbourne campus participates in this walk and this year, the campus was one of the event sponsors. Many of the OTA students have children or family members with autism, which inspired them to go into the occupational therapy field.

**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.  Keiser University holds Level VI accreditation signifying recognition of its expanded doctoral degree offerings.

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, specialist, 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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