LWR at 20: Students say it is definitely a college town

By Staff Report, Herald-Tribune / Wednesday, April 1, 2015

The students commute rather than reside in dorms. They do not gather for pep rallies or homecoming games. Yet they regard Lakewood Ranch as not just a college town, but as their college town.

Two public and four private colleges provide higher education to thousands of students at their Lakewood Ranch campuses. Here is an overview of what they offer:

State College of Florida Manatee-Sarasota
7131 Professional Parkway E.

OPENED: Formerly known as Manatee Community College, SCF — which also has campuses in Bradenton and Venice — opened its Lakewood Ranch campus in January 2003.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: More than 1,400

DEGREES: Associate in Arts degree, general ed requirements and some nursing courses

WEBSITE: scf.edu

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine

College of Medicine and School of Pharmacy, 5000 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.; School of Dental Medicine, 4800 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.

OPENED: College of Medicine, 2004; School of Pharmacy, 2007; School of Dental Medicine, 2012

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 1,658

DEGREES: Doctor of osteopathic medicine, doctor of pharmacy, doctor of dental medicine, masters in health services administration

WEBSITE: lecom.edu
Manatee Technical College

5520 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.

OPENED: Formerly known as Manatee Technical Institute, MTC opened its Lakewood Ranch campus in 2001.

MTC’s main campus is on State Road 70 in Bradenton. It also has satellite campuses in west Bradenton and Palmetto.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 900; MTC's East Campus also certifies more than 8,000 health care providers in Florida annually through its American Heart Association Community Training Center.

DEGREES: Career certificates and applied technology diplomas, as well as continuing education, in the areas of nursing, allied health, fire science, law enforcement and emergency medical services.

WEBSITE: manateetech.edu
Keiser University

6151 Lake Osprey Drive

OPENED: 2001 after relocating from the Quay in Sarasota. Keiser has 15 campuses in Florida, plus a graduate school and a College of Golf and Sport Management.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 707

DEGREES: Business, criminal justice, health care, technology, hospitality, education and career-focused general studies — more than 100 degrees offered from associate to doctoral.

WEBSITE: keiseruniversity.edu

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Everglades University

6151 Lake Osprey Drive

OPENED: May 2003 as part of the Keiser Collegiate System. Everglades has 4 campuses.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 174

DEGREES: Bachelor's in alternative medicine, land and energy management, environmental policy and management, alternative and renewable energy management, construction management, crisis and disaster management, business administration, aviation aerospace. Master's degrees in business administration, aviation science, entrepreneurship and public health administration.
Meridian College

7020 Professional Parkway

OPENED: Meridian, which also has campuses in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Lilburn and Sandy Springs, Georgia, opened its Lakewood Ranch campus in 2008.

NUMBER OF STUDENTS: 180

DIPLOMA AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE PROGRAMS: Cosmetology, dental assistant, medical assistant, medical insurance billing and coding, medical administration, medical assisting, business administration, diagnostic medical ultrasound.

WEBSITE: meridian.edu