



News Release--For Immediate Release

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## **Keiser University Occupational Therapy Assistant Program Creates Partnership with Cypress Cove at HealthPark Florida**

**Ft. Myers, FL**—March 2017— Keiser University’s Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Program Director, Marcia Hamilton, collaborated with Carleigh Racinski of Cypress Cove in order to create an opportunity for students to work with residents at the retirement community. Cypress Cove is a continuing care retirement community (CCRC) with several levels of housing options including independent, assisted living, skilled living, home health, and assisted living memory care.

Students in the OTA program at the Ft. Myers campus and residents of The Cottage at Cypress Cove were able to share a unique learning experience based on therapeutic activities. The Cottage is a 45,000 square foot two-story, four household memory care facility that opened in the fall of 2016. The future OTA’s applied theory to application in order to choose appropriate activities to promote productive engagement, which is the overall goal of occupational therapy intervention.

“This was an uplifting and motivating learning experience for our students where they were able to develop insights into the lives of people living in this community,” stated Marcia Hamilton, MSHS, OTR/L, BCP of Keiser University’s Ft. Myers campus. “As a teacher, I look for opportunities where students can apply their occupational therapy skills and this was a perfect way to assist in helping people challenged with neurocognitive disorders.”

Keiser’s OTA program enhances the programming in all four households at The Cottage at Cypress Cove, giving residents greater variety in activities and increasing the interaction ratio. The students provided fresh new ideas and activities that challenged and engaged the resident population suffering from memory loss from Alzheimer’s or other forms of dementia.

Keiser University’s Associate of Science degree in Occupational Therapy Assistant prepares students to work as an occupational therapy assistant under direct supervision of a licensed occupational therapist. Occupational therapy is the art and science of helping people adapt or adjust to life challenges so as to promote an optimal quality of life.

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**About Keiser University:** Keiser University, co-founded by Dr. Arthur Keiser, Chancellor in 1977, is a private, not-for-profit University serving nearly 20,000 students offering 100 degrees at the doctoral through associate level on 18 Florida campuses, online and internationally, employing 3,800 staff and faculty. Keiser University and the Keiser Mills Foundation provide nearly \$44 million annually in need-based and academic scholarships.

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

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