



NEWS RELEASE--Immediate Release

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Keiser University Graduates Receive Keynote Remarks from Rep. Ray Rodrigues at Summer Commencement Ceremony

More than 225 graduates are eligible to walk at graduation

Ft. Myers, FL—June 2017— On **Friday, June 23, 2017** at 7:00 p.m. faculty and staff from the [Ft. Myers campus](#) will join with family and friends to celebrate the more than 225 graduates who are eligible to cross the stage at this year's summer commencement ceremony. The event is being held at Lee County Civic Center located at 11831 Bayshore Road in North Ft. Myers.

"The staff and faculty at the Ft. Myers campus are extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments of the graduates who will participate in this commencement ceremony. Our graduates are celebrating a great personal and professional triumph that is the direct result of their hard work, dedication, and overcoming of many obstacles. This year we have the largest amount of graduates participating in our commencement ceremony then we have ever had before," stated Nancy Tedros, Campus President. Keiser University is also celebrating its 40th anniversary this year and has been a vital educational resource in the Ft. Myers community for 7 of those 40 years.

The valedictorian for this graduating class, who will also be making remarks at the ceremony is Whitney Clark, who earned her [Bachelor of Science degree in Forensic Investigations](#). Due to living out of state the salutatorian, Ashley Atencio, will not be attending the ceremony to cross the stage with her fellow [Bachelor of Arts in Psychology](#) students. While attending classes at the campus she was also a member of Phi Theta Kappa.

Mayra Alvarado Cruz, who graduated from the Associate of Science in Medical Assisting program in 2012 will be crossing the stage again, this time with a Bachelor's of Science in Health Science degree. When working towards her bachelor's she had to overcome many obstacles, including losing her mother suddenly and then being responsible for her younger brother while working full-time. With a strong spirit she persevered and is currently working at Golisano Naples multispecialty office as a customer service representative. She shared, "No matter the obstacles, you can achieve what you really want if there is dedication and hard work."

The graduates are fortunate to have Representative Ray Rodrigues, the Majority Leader of the Florida House of Representatives, as their keynote speaker. Rep. Rodrigues is a budget manager for the College of Arts and Sciences at Florida Gulf Coast University, where he is also working towards his Master's of

Public Administration. Before this current position at FGCU he worked for GE managing their U.S Import Compliance program. He also served as an appointee of Governor Jeb Bush on the Lee County Housing Authority.

For 40 years, [Keiser University](#) has been a talent development leader providing over 100 doctoral through associate degrees in workforce shortage areas in Florida's targeted industries. The "students first" philosophy combines soft skills, leadership preparation, financial literacy, student support services including tutoring, writing and math labs, monitored learning gains, and convenient scheduling options for working adults.

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.

Ranked #23 by US News & World Report in its 2017 Best Regional Colleges South category, 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.

For additional information regarding Keiser University, visit www.keiseruniversity.edu

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