



**NEWS RELEASE--Immediate Release**

Contact: Kimberly Dale / 954-849-5304 / [kdale@keiseruniversity.edu](mailto:kdale@keiseruniversity.edu)

## **Keiser University's Miami Campus Holds Spring Commencement Ceremony**

*Representative Jose Diaz will deliver the keynote address*

**Miami, FL—June 2017—** On **Saturday, June 10, 2017** at 10:00 a.m. faculty and staff from the [Miami campus](#) will join with family and friends to celebrate the 250 graduates who are eligible to cross the stage at this year's summer commencement ceremony. The event is being held at the Watsco Center at the University of Miami located at 1245 Dauer Drive in Coral Gables.

"As the University begins to celebrate its 40th anniversary, the Miami campus is closing out the celebration of its 15th year serving the residents of Miami-Dade County. We are very proud of the 3,600 graduates from the Miami Campus and the current graduating class joining the ranks of our successful alumni," shared Dr. Gary Markowitz, Campus President. "It has been an honor serving as the founding campus president and having the opportunity to see so many students improve their lives through education."

The valedictorian for this graduating class is Michelle Vaquero who earned her [Bachelor of Science degree in Imaging Science](#). The salutatorian, Clarines Rivera Ortiz, earned her [Bachelor of Science degree in Sports Medicine & Fitness Technology](#) and participated in the Leadership Distinction Program. Also interesting to note, the Class of 2017 has an exceptional number of familial connections crossing the stage including five married couples and two sets of siblings.

Graduates are fortunate to have two distinguished speakers for their summer commencement ceremony. The special guest speaker is Ron Magill, Zoo Communications and Media Relations Director for Zoo Miami/Nikon Ambassador USA. Over the nearly 40 years he has worked with wildlife he has made frequent television appearances, written articles focusing on wildlife, and taken award-winning photographs which have appeared in publications and galleries around the world.

The keynote speaker is Representative Jose Diaz who was born and raised in the Westchester area of Miami and was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2010. He chairs the House Commerce Committee, is chairman of the Miami-Dade County legislative delegation and was appointed by Speaker Richard Corcoran to serve on the Constitutional Revision Commission.

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](http://www.keiseruniversity.edu)

###