Keiser University in Melbourne, long known in the region for offering programs targeting growth sectors in industry and business, is tapping into a field that is expected to rapidly expand through this decade and provide a range of employment opportunities to people who have the right skill-set, training, and academic credentials.

The private Fort Lauderdale-based institution has introduced a new bachelor’s degree program in “Homeland Security” for the local market. Keiser University joins only a small number of schools across the nation that offer a four-year curriculum in this specialized field.

“The Melbourne campus decided to start the program in Homeland Security because of the large military population in Brevard County, such as those associated with Patrick Air Force Base,” said Kimberly Dale, regional director of media and public relations for Keiser University. “There is a lot of interest in Homeland Security.”

The school recruited Richard “Rick” Albarano to be the program director. He has a Homeland Security background. Domestic terrorism is one of his areas of expertise.

“In August,” said Dr. Albarano, “we rolled out the Homeland Security program with two students. In January, enrollment increased to 13 students. It’s growing by word of mouth and our admissions counselors are doing a great job of pointing out the fact that we now offer this program at the Melbourne campus.”

Outside the classroom, Dr. Albarano can often be found refereeing soccer games. His experience includes having coached both high school and college soccer teams. He played professionally in Salzburg, Austria, for a division three team.

“I greatly enjoy the game of soccer,” he said. “I’m too old to play, so I stay active in the game by refereeing.”

Dr. Albarano divides his time between Atlanta, where he has a home, and Florida. Keiser University’s Homeland Security curriculum covers the spectrum of instruction, including courses such as Cyber Terrorism, International and Domestic Terrorism, Introduction to Homeland Security, and Introduction to Disaster Management.

Dr. Albarano thinks that the “biggest threat to the nation is still unknown. The puzzle is still being built.”

Full-time students at Keiser University have the opportunity to complete the bachelor’s program in Homeland Security in three and half years.

The student makeup includes both men and women, military and civilian.

“The students have life experiences they bring to the classroom, which makes a really interesting melting pot for great discussion. They are fully engaged in the process. Some have served overseas. They know what it’s like to be there,” he said.

The Department of Homeland Security was created in 2001 to ensure security coordination between private industries and government agencies. The Department of Homeland Security is one of the largest federal agencies.

“When DHS was formed, the government pulled together 22 federal agencies into one entity,” said Dr. Albarano, who has a Ph.D. in conflict analysis and resolution from Nova Southeastern University, where he was a teaching assistant.

“There are a lot of opportunities and the jobs are diverse. The Department of Homeland Security is working on a program with colleges and universities to ensure that their curriculums in this course of study have competency. So once the student graduates, he or she can actually find a job easier because they have the competency in this field.”

Dr. Albarano said the Department of Homeland Security is also starting to offer entry-level work opportunities for students.

On Dec. 16, for example, the department announced the launch of the 2014 “Secretary’s Honor Program Cyber Student Volunteer Initiative” for college students.

Through the program, more than 100 unpaid student volunteer assignments will be available to support the organization’s cyber mission at local Department of Homeland Security field offices in more than 50 locations around the nation.

The students will gain valuable hands-on experience and exposure to the cybersecurity work performed by Department of Homeland Security professionals. Student volunteers will begin in spring 2014 and participate throughout the summer.

Unlike most other government sectors, the federal, state, and local government funding for Homeland Security and public safety will grow over the next seven years at a compound annual rate of 4 to 5 percent, according to a report by Homeland Security Research Corp.

This growth will be driven by "solid" bipartisan
Continued from page 10

Congressional support, it says. The Homeland Security segment is constantly changing to meet the needs of the nation.

The job opportunities range from border-patrol agents to cyber security, emergency management directors, analytical chemists, and a host of other positions at local, state, and federal agencies, as well as businesses.

Many state law-enforcement agencies continue to shift their existing personnel and resources toward the specialized fields of counter-terrorism and planning, preparation, and response, says the Homeland Security Management Institute at Long Island University.

In the coming years, a significant number of additional personnel and resources will be required as state and local law-enforcement agencies assume a greater share of the national responsibility for Homeland Security functions.

However, Homeland Security careers and employment opportunities are not limited to the law enforcement, intelligence, and emergency management fields.

Dr. Albarano said a growing number of private as well as public businesses cater products and services to the Homeland Security marketplace.

Annual investments in Homeland Security and public-safety products and services purchased by U.S. federal agencies and the private sector increased from $48 billion in 2011 to $51 billion in 2012, and is forecasted to jump to $81 billion by 2020, according to Homeland Security Research Corp.

The Homeland Security program at Keiser University is being marketed at a time when the institution celebrates its 25th anniversary in Melbourne, where more than 1,000 students are enrolled.

"The campus opened in 1989," said Dale. "We have served the community for 25 years. Our first program was nursing, and we have grown and expanded. Today, we offer eight master's, 15 bachelor's, and 16 associate degree programs at this campus. And now we are starting Homeland Security, which I think is a cutting-edge program."

Department of Health in Brevard County recognized by national association

Florida Department of Health in Brevard County has been recognized by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its ability to plan for, respond to, and recover from public-health emergencies.

Florida Department of Health in Brevard County demonstrated these capabilities by meeting the comprehensive preparedness benchmarks required by Project Public Health Ready (PPHR), a unique partnership between NACCHO and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Florida Department of Health in Brevard County joins a cohort of more than 300 health departments across the country that have been distinguished for excellence in preparedness through PPHR, either individually or as part of a region.

"We are proud to have been recognized by Project Public Health Ready for our high level of preparedness," said Dr. Hedkar Feshmati, director of the Florida Department of Health in Brevard County. "We will continue to improve our ability to quickly and effectively respond to any public-health crisis in Brevard County."

PPHR recognition confirms that Florida Department of Health in Brevard County has a thorough and coordinated emergency response plan in place and that staff have the training to protect the health of the community during an emergency. Local health departments recognized by PPHR undergo a rigorous evaluation by peer review to assess their ability to meet a set of national standards for public-health preparedness. These standards align with federal government requirements and other national best practices.

"All disasters strike locally, and local health departments are a critical part of any community's first response to disease outbreaks, emergencies, and acts of terrorism," said Robert Pestroski, NACCHO's executive director. "NACCHO commends Florida Department of Health in Brevard County for being a model of public health emergency preparedness."

NACCHO's mission is to be a leader, partner, catalyst, and voice for local health departments in order to ensure the conditions that promote health and equity, combat disease, and improve the quality and length of all lives.

For more information on PPHR, including recognized sites, project tools and resources, visit www.naccho.org/PPHR.

---

Visit Us at Our New Location!

Dr. Sprock is the Only Board Certified Female Urogynecologist in Brevard

Specializing in:

- Urinary Incontinence - Even simple measures can make a big difference!
- Fecal Incontinence - Get help without surgery
- Excessive night time voiding
- Don't suffer from pain and urgency of urination

Marja Sprock M.D.
Board Certified Urogynecologist

Now Accepting New Patients
101 Eyster Blvd - Rockledge, FL 32955
321-806-3929 - CFUROGYN.COM

MAKE 2014 THE YEAR YOU TAKE BACK YOUR YOUTH.

BEFORE

GELMAN HAIR RESTORATION

Surgical Hair Replacement | Receding Hairline | Hair Transplant Repair | FUE Hair Transplant

AFTER

Gift Certificate
Specials Available

Clifford Gelman, MD
Brevard's Only Dedicated Hair Restoration Center
321.473.1068
GelmanHair.com

JANUARY 20, 2014
Visit BrevardBusinessNews.com for Advertising Information