



NEWS RELEASE – Immediate Release

Contact: Kimberly Dale / 954-849-5304 / kdale@keiseruniversity.edu

Keiser University's Lakeland Campus Celebrates 40th Anniversary and Graduate Accomplishments at Spring Commencement Ceremony

There are 250 graduates eligible to cross the stage

Lakeland, FL –May 2017— In Keiser University's 40th year the [Lakeland campus](#) will hold its spring commencement ceremony on **May 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** at the Youkey Theatre of the Lakeland Center located at 701 W. Lime St., in Lakeland. There are 250 eligible students who are slated to cross the stage to accept their degrees in front of their immensely proud family, friends, faculty, and campus staff. The campus will also be presenting Employer Choice Awards to representatives from BayCare and United Way.

"The staff and faculty at the Lakeland campus are extraordinarily proud of the accomplishments of the graduates who will participate in this commencement ceremony. Keiser University is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, and it is so gratifying to see our graduates continuing to achieve success in meeting the demands of local workforce needs year after year in our community," shared Rebecca McDonnell, Campus President.

The student speaker for this graduating class Jessica Tas, is also the valedictorian and earned her [Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition](#). The salutatorian is Melissa Owen who also earned her Bachelor of Science in Dietetics and Nutrition.

This year's ceremony will have welcoming remarks delivered by City Commissioner Phillip Walker, a long-time friend to the Lakeland campus. The keynote remarks will be delivered by Representative Colleen Burton, who has been a resident of Lakeland for more than 20 years. Rep. Burton was first elected to the Florida House of Representatives in 2014 and proudly serves on numerous committees such as Vice Chair of Ways & Means, Vice Chair of Local, Federal, & Veterans Affairs Subcommittee, and the Government Accountability Committee.

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 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 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, go to www.keiseruniversity.edu

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