



**NEWS RELEASE – Immediate Release**

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## **Keiser University Celebrates 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Graduate Accomplishments at Spring Commencement Ceremony**

*Over 240 graduates eligible to cross the stage*

**Sarasota, FL –May 2017—** In Keiser University's 40<sup>th</sup> year the [Sarasota campus](#) will hold its spring commencement ceremony on **May 9, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.** for the Sarasota campus at the Bradenton Area Convention Center located at One Haben Blvd., in Palmetto. Over 240 students will cross the stage to accept their degrees in front of their immensely proud family, friends, faculty, and campus staff.

"The staff and faculty at the Sarasota 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 has been a vital educational resource in the Sarasota community for 22 of those 40 years," shared Todd Cunningham, Campus President.

The student speaker for this graduating class is Diana Palmer, who earned her [Associate of Science in Culinary Arts](#). Her son was earning his [Sports Medicine and Fitness Technology](#) degree from Keiser University and encouraged her to follow her dream and enroll in the program. "My son and I both chose Keiser because of the programs, location, the one-class at a time schedule, and because it's military friendly." Palmer served in the United States Air Force for 24 years, has two children with her husband and had hoped to retire and take time off to spend with him but instead opted to pursue a life-long dream. While in the program she was also a member of the student culinary team and was involved in competitions.

The valedictorian for this graduating class is David Ledoux, who earned his [Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Administration](#). The salutatorian, Orlando Rolon, Jr., has earned his [Bachelor of Science degree in Software Engineering](#).

This year's commencement speaker is not only a Florida native but has lived in Manatee County his entire life. Vernon DeSear is the Vice President of the Manatee Healthcare System and Executive Director of the Manatee Memorial Foundation. He received his bachelor's degree from Stetson University and His master's degree from the University of Louisville and Southern Seminary. He is involved with numerous civic organizations in the community and has received multiple awards for his charitable activities.

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).

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