



To Whom It May Concern,

Keiser University is important to our community because they educate capable and reliable occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. The university provides quality education to their students that is evident in their practice as occupational therapists and occupational therapy assistants. The health and wellness of the community as a whole from infants to the geriatric population benefits from well-trained and well-educated therapists.

First Step Therapy is a company in Central Florida that has provided physical, occupational, and speech therapy services to the pediatric population in clinical and natural environment settings for more than 10 years. There are clinics located in Kissimmee, Longwood, Leesburg, Eustis, and Winter Haven. The company services homes in Osceola, Orange, Polk, Seminole, Lake, Volusia, Highlands, Brevard, Sumter, and Marion counties. First Step Therapy is also an APD Medical Waiver provider which offers the company the opportunity to work with the adult population as well. We also provide Early Steps services to clients eligible for Early Steps from birth to three years old.

First Step Therapy is currently a fieldwork site for Keiser University that has both MSOT Bridge Program students from the Fort Lauderdale campus as well as OTA Program students from the Orlando and Tampa campuses. The MSOT Bridge Program provides an essential path to higher education for Certified Occupational Therapy Assistants that are seeking to further their careers by obtaining their Master's Degree in Occupational Therapy while continuing to work in the field throughout their schooling. The COTA program educates future providers to help them develop skills essential for working with vulnerable populations.

First Step Therapy employs multiple Keiser University graduates and will continue to hire their qualified alumni due to the outstanding work ethic that is exhibited by Keiser University alumni. The relationship that First Step Therapy has with Keiser University as a fieldwork site has afforded the company the

opportunity to train and educate students throughout their fieldwork rotation in community and clinical settings. Many students are offered a position with the company upon successful completion of the NBCOT exam and state licensure. At this time, First Step Therapy employs more than twenty Keiser University alumni because the alumni have great critical thinking skills, professionalism, flexibility, time management, and eagerness to learn which makes them optimal employees.

Best regards,

Keri Baker, OTR/L  
Regional Director  
First Step Therapy