

March 22, 2022

RE: Keiser University Letter of Support

To whom it may concern:

Keiser University is important to our community for to serve as an accelerated and unique Dietetics experience for those requiring non-traditional paths to nutrition. It is an important equalizer in fostering fresh talent to potentially disadvantaged students for our profession.

It has been a pleasure for me to serve as an adjunct professor for Keiser, as well as maintain my private nutrition practice, Essence Nutrition, which I have had since 2016, serving private, scholastic, and corporate clientele. We have virtual capabilities throughout the state of Florida.

My role at Keiser has allowed me to refine professional skills I may have otherwise lost, like those relating to Institutional Food Service, gifted me the opportunity to become a ServSafe Food Safety Manager, Proctor, and Instructor, and allowed me the unique joy of teaching and mentoring a diverse group of students and maintain the autonomy to which I am accustomed. It has also allowed be to be a part of a warm collegiate atmosphere and cross-pollinate ideas and curriculum with other health science departments.

Keiser students may one day become my own employees or colleagues in private practice. I can trust the education and training they received as I have been steeped in it myself and I personally will know various cohorts of students and will feel confident trusting them with my clientele.

Keiser is a blessing to the community. While many potential Dietetics students feel like a career as an RD is lost since they weren't able to access a DPD when they were 18 in an undergraduate program, whether for financial or life circumstances, they now have the opportunity to pursue an RD dream and still maintain outside employment and unique family demands to support themselves and their families in an accelerated and condensed learning model which serves different types of learners. Keiser students do not feel entitled and are not arrogant, unlike some other program students – they are aware of the sacred opportunity they have been given and take their roles as interns seriously and thusly commit themselves entirely to their internships and are humble and curious throughout the process. They are accustomed to politeness and professionalism, as these traits are baked into each of their courses, and are well-prepared for the "extra"curricular realities of the internship – such as writing, communications, errands, staying nimble and adaptable, unusual hours and commutes, timeliness, multiculturalism, and technology skills.

It is with pleasure that I support this program as it continues to develop and grow and birth a new generation of dietitians who are respected, sharp, well-rounded, and empathetic nutrition professionals.

Sincerely,

Monica Auslander Moreno, MS, RDN

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