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PEMBROKE PINES CAMPUS

NEWS RELEASE--*Immediate Release*

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The College of Advanced Technology Salutes Valedictorian From Class of 2013

Darlene Goebel served 20 years, raised three children and worked full-time

Pembroke Pines, FL—May 21, 2013—State Representative Hazelle Rogers addressed the 250 graduates at the commencement ceremony for Keiser University's College of Advanced Technology on Friday at the Coral Springs Center for the Performing Arts.

The Class of 2013 proudly recognized their Valedictorian, Darlene Goebel at the ceremony, where she spoke on behalf of the graduates. Goebel, a veteran who retired from the Army after having proudly served for 20 years, has earned her Bachelor's in Business Administration. Aside from being a full-time student who held a full-time job with the federal government, was also involved with the academic fraternity Sigma Beta Delta. She currently resides in Pembroke Pines with one son, her daughter and granddaughter.

Here are some of the motivational words from her touching and inspirational speech to her fellow graduates:

"I did get married, became a mother of three children, and instead of one term in the Army, I did 20 years. While I was raising my children and concentrating on my military career, school kept getting pushed onto the back burner. I have no regrets about that at all. My children were all accomplished students and all have been to college, which was one of my dreams for them. I retired from the military at the age of 38 in 2005, which led directly to my second career as a Logistics Management Specialist for the Department of the Army. I want you to note that I said career instead of job. That is an important distinction. A job is something that you do to get by, to pay the bills, to make due until you find that thing you REALLY want to do – your CAREER. When you find your career, you will seek advancement and opportunities to achieve and lead, and you will do it until you retire."



Back row, from left to right: Darlene Goebel (valedictorian), Cynthia Delgado (salutatorian), Carlos Sam (student); Front row, from left to right: State Representative Hazelle Rogers (keynote speaker), Cecil Kidd (Campus President)

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... “Why, you ask, if I was already retired from one career and well into my second was it important? Why did I need it? Want it? For my children is the ready answer. I wanted them to see how valuable I felt this degree was, so much so that I was still trying to get it 28 years after I finished high school. But for me it was to know that I could finish what I started, to know that although LIFE happens to you, it is what you do with what happens that will ultimately define YOUR LIFE.”

“As a campus, we are all grateful and proud of Darlene’s scholastic achievements but are equally appreciative of her accomplishments during her 20 years of selfless service to her country,” said Cecil Kidd, Campus President. “We were moved by her remarks and thankful to have been, and to continue to be, a part of her life.”

About: Keiser University (KU) is a private, not-for-profit university serving nearly 20,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees on 15 campuses and online and employing nearly 3,500 staff and faculty.

Keiser University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award certificates and degrees at the associate, baccalaureate, masters, 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.

Keiser University's educational reach extends globally through its international programs, including the Latin Division, a cooperative agreement in the Eastern European nation of Moldova, and an off-site campus in Shanghai, China.

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