

BBN DIGEST

Keiser University offers degree program in physician assistant

FORT LAUDERDALE — Keiser University's Graduate School recently announced it is offering a master's degree program in physician assistant, one of the fastest-growing health-care fields.

The university has been awarded provisional accreditation by the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant (ARC-PA).

Provisional accreditation is the status awarded to new programs that meet the rigorous standards established by the ARC-PA. This program is an intense study of patient care, theory, science and practice, combining didactic, laboratory and clinical study and experience.

"Keiser University has a proven history of meeting the work force demands of our state and local employers," said Belinda Keiser, vice chancellor for community relations and student advancement. "The access and affordability of quality health care in our nation is of the utmost concern for all Americans and it is our privilege to educate the future physician assistants that will be part of the solution to some of the challenges facing our current system."

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, the employment opportunities are expected to grow for physician assistants by 27 percent through 2016.

The first year of study covers basic sciences and clinically related didactic course work. The clinical year provides students with experience in emergency medicine, surgery procedures, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, psychiatry, family medicine, internal medicine, and long-term care.

"Students will come from a health-care background, seeking positions as members of a health-care team practicing medicine under the supervision of a physician in a variety of settings," said Dr. Helen Martin, program director.

This master's degree is designed to meet the needs of students with regionally accredited baccalaureate degrees and appropriate required prerequisites.

The deadline for application into Keiser University's P.A. program for the January 2010 class is Nov. 2. Applicants may apply at www.keiseruniversity.edu, or contact Dr. Sabrina Mohammed toll-free at (888) 753-4737.

WBBA to host Pancake Breakfast for PAL

The West Melbourne Business Association will host its annual Pancake Breakfast to benefit the West Melbourne Police Athletic League on Nov. 7 at the Space Coast Early Intervention Center on Dairy Road in Melbourne. Tickets to attend the breakfast are \$5 and can be purchased by sending an e-mail message to president@wbba.biz, or calling Arty Pagan at 723-8682. Local merchants are sponsoring this event and have donated gifts and services, including a bicycle that will be raffled off to raise money for the Police Athletic League. "Tough economic conditions have put a strain on the funding for the West Melbourne PAL," said State Farm Agent Pagan, president of the West Melbourne Business Association. "We really need the community support now more than ever." PAL participants range in age from 8 to 18. Visit www.westmelbournepolice.org/PAL.php for more information.

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