

**KEISER**  
**UNIVERSITY**  
FORT LAUDERDALE CAMPUS  
GRADUATE SCHOOL  
ONLINE DIVISION

**NEWS RELEASE--Immediate Release**

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**KEISER TO AWARD ITS FIRST EVER PH.D.'S AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT DEGREES  
Over 800 to Graduate from Keiser University's Fort Lauderdale Campus**  
*Representative Moraitis to Serve as Commencement Speaker*

Ft. Lauderdale, FL—May 18—Keiser University's Ft. Lauderdale campus, online division and Graduate School faculty, staff, students and their families are pleased to welcome State Representative George Moraitis as the 2012 commencement ceremony speaker. Over 800 students will cross the stage at the university's annual graduation ceremony at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts (201 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue) on Saturday, May 19, at 10:30 a.m.

Rep. Moraitis, a native Floridian from Fort Lauderdale, has proudly served as State Representative for District 91 since 2010. He serves on the Energy & Utilities Subcommittee, K-20 Education Innovation Subcommittee, Higher Education Appropriations Subcommittee, Finance & Tax Committee, Joint Committee on Public Council Oversight, and Government Operations Subcommittee.

"Over the last 35 years, the university, our faculty, staff and graduates, have achieved so many milestones and today we celebrate one of the greatest as we recognize the first two graduates from our Ph.D. program," said Dr. Arthur Keiser, Chancellor.

Lydia Creasy and Fernando Martinez will be receiving their doctoral degrees in Educational Leadership at the commencement ceremony. Creasy is currently working in the New Jersey elementary school system teaching third grade. Her future goals include developing curriculum, teaching at the collegiate level, and furthering the development of gifted and talented education. Martinez, who moved to Florida from Cuba at the age of seven, has been an executive for 15 years in the healthcare community. He chose to pursue his doctoral degree for greater diversity within his career and to be able to teach MBA programs.

The Graduate School also celebrates the first 17 Physician Assistant graduates and the first student to graduate from the Spanish MBA program. Hernando Salcedo was born in Colombia and worked at several universities before moving to the United States six years ago. With Master's degrees in higher education and public administration, he enrolled in Keiser University's MBA degree program, taught entirely in Spanish.

"I am honored to receive my MBA from Keiser University and I know it will open many doors and opportunities," said Salcedo. "Being able to study in Spanish in a country where I had to start from scratch has made this learning experience all the more meaningful," he added.

Keiser University also recognizes Valedictorian Cecelia Colines graduating with a Bachelor's degree in Forensic Investigations and Salutatorian Melanie Smith graduating with a Bachelor's in Business Administration.

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**About:** Keiser University (KU) serves nearly 18,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees on 14 campuses, employing nearly 3,500 staff and faculty. The university has been regionally accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools since 1991 and is a Level VI institution.

Sixty-two percent of KU students graduate in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) and healthcare fields, providing the talented workforce necessary for Florida to compete globally. The University ranks 1st in Florida and 2nd in the nation in production of Associate of Science graduates in healthcare professions and 2nd in Florida and 3rd in the nation in production of Associate of Science in nursing graduates\*.

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 a campus in Shanghai, China.

*\*Source: Community College Week evaluation of US. Dept. of Ed--Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System IPEDS 2010 Rank*