

KEISER UNIVERSITY

PORT ST. LUCIE CAMPUS

NEWS RELEASE--Immediate Release

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Representative Gayle Harrell to Serve as Commencement Speaker for Keiser University's Port St. Lucie Campus

Courageous graduate undergoing treatment for second cancer diagnosis determined to walk at ceremony

Port St. Lucie, FL—June 15, 2012—Keiser University's Port St. Lucie campus, administration, students, faculty, staff and families are pleased to welcome State Representative Gayle Harrell as the 2012 commencement ceremony speaker for the 200 graduates. The event takes place at the Port St. Lucie Civic Center located at 9221 S.E. Civic Center Place on Friday, June 15, at 7:00 p.m.

Representative Gayle Harrell, a resident of Florida's Treasure Coast for over 38 years, is a leader in setting healthcare policy as a member of the Florida House of Representatives. She is currently Chair of Health & Human Services Access Subcommittee, and is a sitting member of the Health & Human Services Committee, Healthcare Appropriations Committee and the Criminal Justice Committee.

"Everyone at our University is looking forward to our upcoming graduation ceremony," said Dr. Thomas Creola, campus president, "as it is a very special event in which we reflect on our students' academic success and are inspired by their future opportunities."

The class of 2012 is extremely proud to honor Henrietta Finley, a mother of four and grandmother who will earn her degree in AS in Medical Assisting. Henrietta has been diagnosed with cancer for the second time, but she is not one to let these struggles interrupt her studies or her life. She urges not to let anything defeat one's body or mind. Henrietta will walk across the stage with her fellow graduates this Friday, and plans to return to KU for her Nursing degree.

The class is also proud to recognize Carlos Ramirez-Flores. When Ecuadorian-born Ramirez-Flores moved to Florida to start his own business, he realized that he could not provide the accounting advice many Spanish-speaking natives needed. He enrolled at Keiser University and earned four consecutive degrees (AA Acct, AA BA, BA Acct and MBA) in order to provide bilingual services to his customers. His wife also earned her Paralegal degree at KU, and today, his business continues to thrive and serve the entire Florida community.

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About: Keiser University (KU) serves nearly 18,000 students pursuing doctoral through associate degrees on 15 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.

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