

<u>NEWS RELEASE</u>--*Immediate Release* Contact: Kelli Lane / 954-235-0331 / <u>kellil@keiseruniversity.edu</u>

## Keiser University Celebrates Graduating Class at Summer Commencement

With over 1,200 graduates from across the country and internationally

Fort Lauderdale, FL—June 14, 2013 – The administration and faculty of the Ft. Lauderdale campus, the Graduate School and Online Division are proud to welcome State Representative Ritch Workman as the 2013 commencement ceremony speaker. The event takes place at the Broward Center for the Performing Arts located at 201 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave. on Friday, June 14 at 7:00 p.m.

The more than 1,200 graduates, from across the country and internationally, will be addressed by State Representative Ritch Workman, who was elected to the Florida House in 2008. In his first session he passed the Alonzo Mourning Access to Care Act, which gives end stage kidney disease patients access to Medicaid coverage. Since then he has served as Chair of the Community and Military Affairs and Finance and Tax subcommittees and has passed major legislation relating to Pension and Growth Management reform. Most recently, he passed legislation restricting unwarranted drone surveillance on Floridians. Rep. Workman represents District 52, and lives with his two children in Melbourne.

"This ceremony represents the largest graduating class from the Ft. Lauderdale campus," said John Sites, Campus President. "Commencements are always a joyous and festive occasion for the graduates, their families and the university personnel, as the occasion represents the successful completion of the students' goals and the beginning of a new chapter in their lives."

The Valedictorian the Class of 2013 is Katarzyna Zielinski, who has earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice. She moved to the U.S. from Poland 22 years ago and has lived in Florida for 18 of those years. This wife and mother of four maintained a 4.0 GPA while attending classes full-time and working as a Contract Interpreter for the U.S. District Court Southern District of Florida and Florida State Courts. She has served twice as an interpreter to President Lech Walesa, leader of Solidarity Movement in 1980 during his lectures at FIU in Miami. Aside from all this, she also participated in the Leadership Distinction program.

The Salutatorian for this graduating class is Roselyn Jean-Pierre, with a Bachelor of Science in Health Science. Born in Jamaica, she moved to Ft. Lauderdale with her family when she was ten years old. After graduating high school she joined the U.S. Navy and served seven years as a hospital corpsman and respiratory therapist. Now that she has completed her bachelor's degree she has re-enrolled with KU to earn her MBA, while working as a respiratory therapist at Palms West Hospital.

Aside from these exceptional graduates, the first graduate of the Bachelor of Science in Cyber Forensics and Information Security degree program, Luis Molinero, who is planning to join the United States Air Force, will be recognized.

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"For the Graduate School, this ceremony holds special significance as we will see seven new Ph.D.'s in Education Leadership walk to receive the recognition they have worked so hard to achieve," stated Dom Montalvo, Vice President of the Graduate School.

This spring, over 5,000 Keiser University graduates will cross stages throughout the state signifying completion of their college degrees and the beginning of the next chapter in their professional lives.

**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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