

May 14, 2008

Congressional Passage of Pool and Spa Safety Legislation Increases Need for Higher Education

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla., May 14 / -- The recent passing of the first federal pool and spa safety law amplifies the need for higher education of Pool and Spa Operators. There are many things that can go wrong if the water is not properly cared for and the facility is not properly maintained. "The key to assuring a safe and enjoyable experience when people are swimming is directly connected to the higher education of those who maintain the pools and spas. It is critical now, more than ever," says Connie Sue Centrella, Program Director of the Keiser University online Aquatic Engineering Technology degree program. The protection and safety of guests at hotels, condominiums, and aquatic facilities, as well as private pools has gained recent public attention with the passing of the Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Act of 2007.

Keiser University is the first and only accredited university providing a higher education degree program in the pool and spa field. The two-year Associate of Science degree in Aquatic Engineering Technology is offered exclusively online. "The online interaction often leads to greater student effort and more student learning, and thus, increased satisfaction in the learning experience," explains Centrella. The online format makes it possible to offer a global study program that enables schedule flexibility and increased access to those currently employed. "Professions that impact public health like nursing, medical technology and aquatics, need college-level training. Keiser is leading the way in creating these programs," suggests Thomas Lachocki, Ph.D., CEO, of non-profit National Swimming Pool Foundation, who has certified over 200,000 pool/spa operators.

Bill Kent, owner of Team Horner, a manufacturer and distributor of pool and spa products based in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, partnered with Keiser University in 2004 to develop the online Aquatic Engineering Degree program. Team Horner is deeply committed to higher level technical training. "It is absolutely necessary to the future growth of the swimming pool and spa industry, and to the safety and enjoyment of those who use our products," says Kent. "Dr. Arthur Keiser, Chancellor of Keiser University, is to be applauded for his forward-thinking by offering this valuable program," he concludes. Keiser reports the online Aquatic Engineering Degree program is gaining recognition. New students are enrolling from in- and- outside the pool and spa industry, including students from as far away as Singapore.

The Keiser University Associate of Science two-year Aquatic Engineering Degree is 60 semester hours of which 36 credit hours are in the aquatics

discipline. The degreed program encourages students to broaden their knowledge in all aspects of swimming pool and spa management and operation.

Visit <http://www.keiseruniversity.edu/>, click on online education.

Keiser University, based in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, with 13 campuses, offers degrees in high-demand fields and is Accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools to award the associate's and bachelor's degrees.

Source: Keiser University Online Aquatic Engineering Technology