

KEISER **UNIVERSITY**

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Nursing Student Gives Birth, Returns to Class Two Days Later

Jacksonville, Florida—February 26, 2008— Christy Foster-Stoltz, 22, of St. Augustine made a commitment to her unborn daughter, that she would graduate from nursing school just after her baby's first birthday. Foster-Stoltz, a nursing student at Keiser University's Jacksonville campus gave birth last month on January 13 and returned to class just two days later on January 15.

"Christy said she would be 'right back' but when she walked into class two days later ready to pick up where she left off, I just couldn't believe it," Cheryl Williams, MSN, MBA, HCM, Keiser nursing instructor. I think I may have told her to go home, but that's Christy, she's committed and this is her dream, added Williams.

Dessie Mae, named after her maternal grandmother, was born healthy and able to leave the hospital within two days. "It was horrible to leave her that first day and my sister had to drive me up to Jacksonville so I could return to classes," Foster-Stoltz added.

Foster-Stoltz credits her nursing classmates for helping her through the toughest days as a new mom pursuing a challenging degree program.

"They have been so supportive, my belly became the class mascot and other moms in the class have been giving me advice along the way. I think they were as anxious for her to arrive as I was," she said. With only 23 students in the class, we get to know each other well and I'm grateful for the support of my second family.

Foster-Stoltz's nursing class are supporting each other in another way, a healthy challenge. The class is mirroring the popular television show, Biggest Loser. Participating students donate \$5 each week –and for those that gain weight, \$1 extra—in the hopes of winning the pot by losing the most weight over the length of their program, although, Foster-Stoltz admittedly has an advantage.

"I am so proud of all of our students and that is the uniqueness of Keiser University; we make every effort to get to know all of them on personal level to help them to be successful in their education and their lives in general, stated Karen Scolforo, campus president. Christy is a prime example of that commitment," she added.

Keiser University, Florida's leading private, statewide provider of career-focused, post-secondary education is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Keiser University serves more approximately 13,000 students at its 13 campuses throughout the State of Florida and through the online division.

Keiser University offers master's, bachelor's and associate degrees in high demand career fields meeting workforce and economic development needs in the communities we serve. In 2006, Keiser University was the nationwide leader in production of Associate of Science graduates in Health Professions and Related Sciences (Community College Week Analysis of US Department of Education Data Released July 8, 2007).

For more information on Keiser University, visit www.keiseruniversity.edu.

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