

Everglades graduate receives GREAT Award



Caroline King, Campus Vice President of Everglades University's Sarasota campus; GREAT Award winner Derrick Buchholz, and Dr. Arthur Keiser, school chancellor. COURTESY PHOTO

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The Association of Private Sector Colleges and Universities recently announced that Derrick Buchholz of Sarasota received a Graduate Recognition for Excellence, Achievement and Talent, or GREAT Award.

The association's GREAT Award honors recent graduates of private colleges and universities who have excelled academically and overcome great odds to achieve their educational dreams.

"I am grateful to receive this recognition and for the education I received at Everglades University," Buchholz said in a prepared statement. "I knew that getting a college degree would help me with my career in aviation and EU provided the flexibility and resources I needed to receive my degree while working full time."

After recovering from a car accident and then a cancer diagnosis, Buchholz moved to Sarasota where he worked at Aircraft Service International Group at Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport.

He received a bachelor of science degree with honors in aviation technology in 2009 and is scheduled to complete his master's degree in aviation science later this year.

Buchholz served as president of the Everglades University Student Government Association, is involved in community service activities and mentors other aviation students.

"We are very proud of Derrick's accomplishments and he is an inspiration to us all," Steve Gunderson, president and CEO of APSCU, said in the statement. "He is an example of the value that our schools offer Americans and we are proud to serve students like him."

Buchholz is one of five 2012 GREAT Award recipients who traveled to Washington, D.C., to attend a ceremony to receive their awards.

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