



# SAVES



## Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

### Disability Does Not Stop Determined SAVES Student

Diego Hoyos is a paraplegic student with asylum status from Colombia. He joined the SAVES program at American Adult & Community Education Center in August, 2003.



Diego works to improve his skills in ESOL computer lab

When he began taking classes, Diego was in the ESOL Foundation class. Through hard work and determination, he is now enrolled in ESOL Level III. Diego attends class two nights a week from 6:30 – 9:30. In addition, he comes in at 5:00 PM to work with the Ellis Program in the ESOL computer lab. In the lab, Diego works to expand his vocabulary and improve his pronunciation and listening skills.

Mr. Hoyos is one of many Colombian asylees that SAVES is able to assist. Over the past few years, the United States Government has granted asylum to a greater number of Colombians due to the escalation of violence in this South American country.

Diego’s goal is to communicate effectively in the English language and get a job in his chosen profession as a forest technician here in the United States of America. With his disability, Diego benefits greatly from the services provided by the SAVES program, especially the bus passes. He is described as conscientious, hardworking, and pleasant by Ms. Smithen, one of his teachers.

According to this SAVES client, “the most important process of learning English is to become aware of your circumstances and try to do well. Regardless of the conditions that you are faced with, you can make it. I know I have a long way ahead of me, but I’m confident that with hard work and persistence, I will make it through.”

We at the SAVES office wish Diego success in the pursuit of his goals. We hope that one day he will be a forest technician taking care of trees and plants here in Florida.

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If you know anyone else who would like to receive future newsletters, please send your request to [Jtravieso1@dadeschools.net](mailto:Jtravieso1@dadeschools.net).