



SAVES

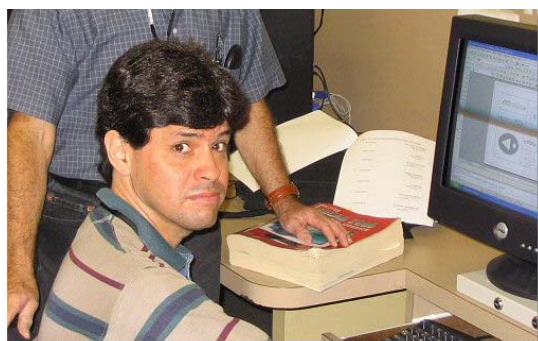


Miami-Dade County Public Schools

MDCPS

Venezuelan SAVES Student Reaches For Goal

The political turmoil in Venezuela has caused many professionals to flee that country. Many Venezuelans have decided to seek political asylum here in South Florida, including this issue's success story, Said Arizabal.



Said Arizabal at Miami Lakes Adult Center

As a youngster growing up in Venezuela during the 70s and 80s, Said's dream was to become an architect. After many years of education, and with the support of his parents, Said was able to realize his dream. Everything was going as planned, but then the political climate in this South American country changed. As a result, Said and his wife were forced to make the very difficult decision to leave their homeland.

Said arrived in Miami in 2002. Like many other Venezuelan professionals in his position, Said's first goal was to become fluent in English. After enrolling in an adult center to learn English, Said learned about the SAVES program.

With the help of Mr. John Hazelton, he enrolled in the Drafting/CAD (Computer Aided Drafting and Design) program at Miami Lakes Education Center. The teacher of this program is Mr. Michael Victor, who says that working with Said has been a total pleasure.

After a year and a half in the SAVES program, and through lots of hard work and dedication, Said has enrolled in the University of Miami, where he will soon receive a degree similar to the one he had in Venezuela. Said Arizabal credits his determination and the SAVES program for having come this far.

His advice for other SAVES clients is to become fluent in English, and to select a vocation that they can really enjoy. His next goal is to become employed by an architectural firm here in South Florida. We at the SAVES office wish him all the luck in the world!



Mr. Victor, CAD teacher, enjoyed helping Said

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If you know anyone else who would like to receive future newsletters, please send your request to Jtravieso@dadeschools.net.