



SAVES

Cutting a Path to Success

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

My name is Maricela Monnar, and after leaving Cuba and traveling through Mexico, I entered the United States at Laredo, Texas, on August 22, 2007. I am very grateful to God for having permitted me to arrive in this country, and to be lucky enough to have the help of the SAVES Program, so that I can continue working in my occupation as a cosmetologist. The SAVES Program not only paid for my classes but also provided all the books and supplies

hours necessary to obtain my cosmetology license from the State of Florida. Because I brought my original cosmetology specialist degree from Cuba, I was given credit for 700 hours and only need to complete 500 hours of classes. I plan to walk in the graduation ceremony in December 2008, and really look forward to this event. I have been working as a receptionist in a beauty salon, and the owners have promised to hire me as a cosmetologist as soon as I receive my license.



While her instructor Ada Alvarez observes, Ms. Maricela Monnar masters her skills

I want to thank all of the SAVES staff at Southwest, including their principal, Mr. Steve Rummel, the assistant principal for SAVES, Ms. Ada Varona, and the SAVES contacts, Mari Carmen Vazquez, Rosa Barrios, and Melissa Franchi-Alfaro, for their guidance and support, and for helping me turn my dreams into reality. I hope this program continues to help new immigrants who want to practice their vocation in the United States.

that I needed. I am also extremely grateful for the support of my cosmetology teacher at Southwest Adult Center, Ms. Ada Alvarez. Her encouragement has helped me succeed. Our class also has thirteen other SAVES students attending that are taking advantage of all SAVES has to offer them.

At the present, I am finalizing my course of study and completing the contact and practice



Ms. Maricela Monnar with her cosmetology instructor, Ms. Ada Alvarez, on the right

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