



SAVES

Hispanic Heritage Month 2008 Celebration

Hispanic Heritage Month is the period that recognizes the contributions of Hispanic Americans to the United States. It is an opportunity to celebrate their heritage and culture. Enacted into law in 1988, it officially begins on September 15th and ends on October 15th every year.



The staff in traditional Spanish flare.

The English Center staff has made the observance and celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month a tradition, and this year was no exception. The staff involves the students by encouraging them to write and present essays and poetry about the impact of Hispanics in the history of this nation. The students and staff also participate in various cultural performances and share dishes from every corner of Latin America. This year as well, The English Center extended their gratitude to the SAVES Program by hosting the SAVES district meeting on October 15th, 2008. All those in attendance were treated to a special surprise.

The staff created and decorated the room with elaborate hand made decorations. Under the

supervision of Ms. Hilda Iglesias, SAVES staff members Ms. Maria Ramos, Ms. Mirella Perez and countless others volunteered their time and effort to prepare for the event. The theme of the meeting was Spain and Spanish culture. From the background music, and the costumes worn by some of the staff, to the food and drinks provided, it was all about the culture of Spain.

Mr. Hiram Ruiz, the South Florida region's newly appointed director of Refugee Services for the Florida Department of Children & Families, attended the meeting along with selected members of his team. Mr. Antonio Caballero Javierre, a representative from the Spanish Consulate in Miami, also attended. He generously presented the school with educational material about the history and culture of Spain.

The meeting was a great success, and the SAVES Program would like to thank The English Center for their support for our mission of helping newly arrived refugees and asylees successfully resettle in the United States.



Our guests of honor, Mr. Hiram Ruiz (far left) and Mr. Antonio Caballero Javierre (second from right), enjoyed the meeting.

Prepared with funds from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services through the Florida Department of Children and Families, Office of Refugee Services.

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