



# SAVES

## SAVES Helps Three Future Registered Nurses

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

The Practical Nursing vocational program, offered through Miami-Dade County Public Schools, is one of the most challenging programs for our SAVES students to complete. The entrance requirements are stringent; the students must attend class seven hours a day, Monday through Friday; and to successfully complete the program, a minimum score of 11.0 on all three sections of the Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) is needed.



In white, SAVES students Jose Larias, Joyce Lopez and Ivonne Hernandez with Ms. Alnerys Ferro

But for SAVES students, the most challenging aspect is mastering the level of English needed to function in this program. This is why we take this opportunity to congratulate the extra-ordinary efforts of Robert Morgan SAVES students Ivonne Hernandez, Jose Larias and Joyce Lopez. All three will be successfully graduating from the Practical Nursing Program in October 2009.

Both Ivonne and Joyce arrived from Cuba four years ago and immediately enrolled in ESOL classes. For Ivonne, the biggest challenge was communicating in English and getting over the fear that people would not understand her. Joyce became pregnant during the program and made every effort to miss as few classes as possible. She proudly recalls the day she gave birth because it happened immediately after taking a very important test. For Jose, who arrived five years ago, his biggest obstacle was finding a Practical Nursing program that would accept him and not leave him \$20,000 in debt.

SAVES covered 75% of all the tuition for the program and provided all three with the necessary books to complete their studies. SAVES staff members Ms. Alnerys Ferro, Ms. Luz Arango and Ms. Gloria Ramos also provided the necessary counseling and support to help these three individuals complete their endeavors.

In the near future, Ivonne, Jose and Joyce plan on working in their new field and eventually transitioning into the Registered Nurse Program, which will take an additional two years to complete. All three are very thankful to the SAVES Program. They would like to challenge and encourage all adult education refugee students to make the sacrifice to learn English, to inform themselves of all the services and benefits available to them and to chase their dreams. We hope these three bright and hard-working students never stop chasing theirs. Congratulations...

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