



SAVES

Teacher Creates a Constellation of SAVES Stars!

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

SAVES' goal is to help clients resettle in the United States. Eligible students are provided free ESOL classes and books, free bus passes and childcare, referrals to employment agencies, a free evaluation/translation of professional and educational documents, and one year of job training in the student's choice of over 180 vocational programs offered by M-DCPS.



A SAVES student learns the art of facials

The program would hardly exist without the excellent teachers who work with our SAVES students. Ms. Maria Teresa Lafuente is both a great teacher and a great asset to her community. As the lead teacher for The English Center's Cosmetology program since 1999, Ms. Lafuente designed and established a standardized curriculum for all cosmetology classes that is correlated to all state-wide requirements, and in the process, she has worked with and helped dozens of SAVES students resettle in the U.S. Her classes are so popular that there is a six month waiting list. As a testament of the dedication to her trade, Ms. Lafuente's students have a 95% passing rate on the state Cosmetology exam.

What sets Ms. Lafuente apart from other teachers is her attitude that all students who walk through her doors will succeed. Some of the SAVES students who have benefited from Ms. Lafuente's teaching and positive outlook still stay in touch with her after years of having

completed her program. Maria Milagros Armas is one of these students. After graduating from the Cosmetology program in 2005, she earned her cosmetologist license in the states of Florida and Nevada. Today, she is working as a hair stylist in a salon in Nevada. Georgina Evora, a SAVES cosmetology student who graduated in 2003, still calls Ms. Lafuente for advice. Georgina credits the SAVES Program and Ms. Lafuente for having helped her achieve her American dream of having a good job and owning her own home. Currently, Georgina is employed at the prestigious Olga Beauty Studio in Fort Myers, FL. Idania Acosta, like the majority of our SAVES students, arrived to the U.S. with little knowledge of the English language and limited job skills. After reaching a level of English that would allow her to enroll in a vocational program, Idania enrolled in the Cosmetology program at The English Center. In 2005, Idania graduated from the program, and she is presently working at The Body Waxing Company in South Beach, FL.



Ms. Lafuente— A dedicated and inspirational teacher

On behalf of the SAVES Program and M-DCPS, we would like to thank Ms. Maria Lafuente for all of her hard work and dedication to our students. She embodies the spirit and effort of all those teachers who inspire our students to overcome challenges and to succeed in this new land.

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For more success stories, go to <http://saves.dadeschools.net>

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