



# SAVES

## Miami-Dade County Public Schools

### “No Pain, No Gain” Describes Student’s Work Ethic

My name is Otello Alfonso, and I was born in Havana, Cuba. After high school, I studied to be a shop mechanic and have enjoyed working in this trade ever since. My family was fortunate enough to win the Cuban Visa Lottery, and we came to the United States the 31<sup>st</sup> of August of 2002. Immediately after arriving, we received help from Youth Co-Op, Inc.



Mr. Otello Alfonso—Knows the value of knowing English

To have success in the US, you must learn to understand, speak, read and write the English language. This is the main reason why I enrolled in ESOL classes only a month after arriving. Thanks to the assistance of the SAVES Program at Hialeah Adult, I was able to not only enroll for free classes, but I was also able to obtain all my books and dictionaries at no cost.

Less than a year later, in June of 2003, I began my vocational studies in Machine Shop under the tutelage of Mr. Candido Hernandez and later, Mr. Justo Valverde.

Once again, SAVES covered the costs of my classes and the books needed for the courses. Thanks to the dedication of my instructors who continually encouraged me, and to the entire staff at Hialeah Adult, I excelled well in the Machine Shop Program.

Currently, I am serving as an Instructor’s Assistant to Mr. Candido Hernandez at the University of Miami, while continuing to attend classes here at Hialeah Adult Education Center. I plan on continuing my education and not stopping until I am accepted to the Engineering Program at the University of Miami.

I would simply like to tell all the SAVES and adult education students that if there’s no pain, there’s no gain (a saying an instructor once told me). Life in the United States is hard, but with persistence you can get what you want.



Devoted teachers Mr. Justo Valverde and Mr. Candido Hernandez of Hialeah Adult

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