Students Attend Construction Trades Career Day: Training Available Through Apprenticeship

On March 15, 2019, approximately 300 high school students attended a Career Day event sponsored by the United Joint Apprenticeship Committee of South Florida. Some attendees are enrolled in pre-apprenticeship programs in traditional high schools (Coral Gables Senior High School, Homestead Senior High School, Miami Carol City Senior High School, and Miami Edison Senior High School). Other participants represented COPE Center North, Dorothy M. Wallace COPE Center, Dr. Marvin Dunn Academy for Community Education, Jan Mann Educational Center, and Miami McArthur Educational Center.

The event was held at ARPEC (Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, Pipefitting Education Center) located at 13201 NW 45 Avenue in Opa-Locka, Florida. Representatives from the District’s Adult Education Programs and Career and Technical Education Division collaborated with the United Joint Apprenticeship Committee of South Florida to provide students with information about the various union trades and related training programs. This Career Day was specifically created to introduce and recruit students to a variety of construction trades. Individuals entering these trades require hands-on-training – i.e., apprenticeships – to develop the skills and aptitude necessary to succeed in the construction industry. The United Joint Apprenticeship Committee of South Florida consists of local trade unions. Resource persons on hand at the Career Day Event included representatives form from Local Union 487 South Florida Operating Engineers; Local Union 32 Sheet Metal Workers; Local Union 78 Painters and Allied Trades; Local Union 349 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers; Local Union 725 Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, and Pipefitting Education Committee; and Local Union 60 International Association of Heat and Frost Insulators and Allied Workers; Local Unions 519 and 719 Plumbers Joint Apprenticeship Committee; Local Union 71 National Elevator Industry Education Program.

Students who participated in this Career Day spoke with representatives from the construction trades about the many career opportunities and benefits of working in a trade where employees are represented by a union. In addition, students received information about the different apprentice training programs that are based locally and are approved by the U.S. Department of Labor. Students accepted into apprentice training will qualify to receive competitive wages, in addition to working side-by-side with a journeyman, or a trained worker with five or more years of experience in the field. These apprentices will be earning a living wage while learning in a tuition free training program and enjoying great benefits such as health and related insurance. For additional information, please call 305-558-8000.

www.careerinayear.com/programs/apprenticeship
Mr. Kenyada Ragin, Head Custodian at D.A. Dorsey Technical College, is no stranger to the M-DCPS Adult/Vocational world. His career began at Lindsey Hopkins where he cultivated his professional skills as a Custodian, and even took classes leading to certification in Air Conditioning, or what is now called “HVAC” (Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning). Mr. Ragin’s work ethic and credentials have led to many job offers as a Head Custodian. His heart finally settled on D.A. Dorsey Technical College which is led by Dr. Angela E. Thomas-DuPree. In his new supervisory role, Mr. Ragin continues to flourish, often going above and beyond his official job description to “get things done” for the school. Additionally, Mr. Ragin’s stellar reputation as a hard worker, along with his sparkling personality, contribute to his excellent working relationships with many of the individuals that help keep the College clean and safe. Since Mr. Ragin’s arrival, D.A. Dorsey Technical College has been the site of many projects sponsored by General Obligation Bonds. With the support of Mr. Ragin and his crew, these projects continue to receive passing marks on each and every sanitation audit. In recognition of all these successes, Principal Dr. Angela E. Thomas-DuPree encouraged Mr. Ragin to “run” for the 2018-2019 AFSCME*/Plant Operations Employee of the Year Award. After observing and interviewing Mr. Ragin, he was voted one of three finalists. This was no surprise to the D.A. Dorsey family and community as they witnessed him performing everything from yard work, to hanging light fixtures, and even painting. Mr. Ragin does whatever it takes to keep the school looking clean and remaining safe. Moreover, he does it all with a positive attitude. On February 27, 2019, Mr. Kenyada Ragin hoisted the AFSCME/Plant Operations Employee of the Year Plaque. This award also brought a prize of $1,000.00 that made our already upbeat custodian even more joyful. Mr. Ragin is a winner every day at D.A. Dorsey Technical College because of his passionate dedication to being and doing his very best. (Note to reader: *AFSCME is the nation’s largest and fastest growing public services employees union. AFSCME stands for: American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees).

www.dorseytechnicalcollege.com

Know...
"There are no secrets to success. It is the result of preparation, hard work, and learning from failure.”
— Colin Powell
When a local community center asked for help, Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College (RMECTC) located in South Dade quickly responded, “Yes!,” and asked, “How can we do more?” The Ignatian Spirituality Center, founded in 1994, made the request. It provides ongoing support for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, which assists families in need through family and youth retreats, religious counseling, and youth ministries. RMECTC’s annual fundraising “Wine & Dine Fiesta-2019” was held on Friday, January 18, 2019.

Chef, Mr. Antonio Starvaggi and students from his Baking & Pastry Arts Program – including students in Project TOPS – prepared more than 500 chocolate mousse desserts and served food donated by over 30 local restaurants. More than 500 people attended the event and all the funds raised will be used to sponsor additional community events this year. While there was great music, a bountiful variety of foods, and delicious desserts, Father Marcelino Garcia, the Director of the Ignatian Spirituality Center, graciously gave all the credit to Robert Morgan students: “The students’ professional service and positive attitude is what made this year special! Thus, a special ‘thank you’ to Principal Fox, Chef Starvaggi, and all the RMECTC students. We need you next year!”

Taste...
“One cannot think well, love well, sleep well, if one has not dined well.”
— Virginia Woolf
Students at Jan Mann Educational Center on Target to Be Future Entrepreneurs: Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship Hosts Business Plan Competition

Jan Mann Educational Center hosted a spectacular Business Plan Competition sponsored by NFTE, the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship. Students presented and defended their business plans in the Media Center on February 22, 2019.

Judges included Ms. Cheryl Small, Retired Teacher; Ms. Andrea Walker, Test Chairperson; and Mr. Jonathon Drummond, Science Teacher. They challenged student entrepreneurs to explain and defend their business ideas, financial projections, and sales and marketing strategies. NFTE Program staff were awed by the students’ presentations and ideas.

School site first place winners, Daniel Sayu and Kevin Davila, will represent Jan Mann Educational Center at the NFTE Quarter/Semi-Regional Competitions on May 17th at Nova Southeastern University. Congratulations to our students!

Remember...

“The biggest obstacles in our lives are the barriers our mind creates.”

— Anonymous

Above, Students Received Certificates after They Presented and Defended their Business Plans in the Media Center at Jan Mann Educational Center
On Saturday, February 2, 2019, George T. Baker Aviation Technical College hosted its annual Aviation Fair. The school’s hallways and workshops filled with exuberent students, faculty, and members of the community. The event highlighted the opportunities in career and technical education in South Florida. Industry partners, instructors, and students were able to collaborate, advocating for the growing need for Aviation Maintenance Technicians. Through exhibits and tours, members of our community were able to explore the school and discover for themselves the rewarding careers available in Aviation Maintenance. As some prospective students explored flight on our simulators, others enjoyed tours of our MD-80 and Boeing 737 aircraft. This year’s Aviation Fair gave the school, its instructors, and administrators, a chance to share educational and career opportunities with the community. It was inspiring for local students to experience this moment and join the aviation maintenance professionals of tomorrow.

George T. Baker Aviation Technical College Hosts Annual Aviation Fair: Area Residents and Students Learn About Careers in Aviation Maintenance Alternative Education Region

Realize ...
“Flying starts from the ground. The more grounded you are, the higher you fly.”
— J.R. Rim
The English Center Gives Back to Community: Students Fill “Hope Bags” For Homelesss

The English Center’s mission is to encourage students to become lifelong learners and contributing, ethical citizens in a multicultural and changing world. Toward this end, English Center Success Pathways students collected “necessaries” to benefit the homeless. They accomplished this by filling “Hope Bags” with men’s deodorant, shaving cream, disposable razors, and bars of soap. These were distributed to the homeless served by the Miami Rescue Mission. The Miami Rescue Mission has been assisting needy people in Miami since 1922 by reaching “out to the Least, The Last, and the Lost of our Community.” Last year, they received over 600,000 meals and 280,000 nights of safe shelter were provided to people in need. We believe this is an important life lesson: no matter how tough you think your life is there’s always someone who has to face challenges that are even tougher than yours.

Participating Students are Pictured here Along with Their Teachers: Ms. Arriete and Mr. Bernal; Case Managers, Ms. Casas and Ms. Garcia; Assistant Principal, Mr. Ruiz; and Principal, Ms. Carballo

Above, Mr. Soto’s Students at The English Center Collected an Extraordinary Amount of Items to Benefit the Miami Rescue Mission. Kudos to Them and To Their Teacher for Their Grand Efforts

Above, is the Logo for the Miami Rescue Mission | Broward Outreach Centers, The Caring Place, has Served the Homeless and Needy of South Florida since 1922

Above, is the Logo for the Miami Rescue Mission | Broward Outreach Centers, The Caring Place, has Served the Homeless and Needy of South Florida since 1922

The Total Number of Homeless Persons on the Street in Miami-Dade County on an average night is 1,347 individuals

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If you like working on cars and are interested in an exciting career in the ever-changing automotive world, THE TIME TO ENROLL IS NOW!
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MASTER TECHNICIANS CAN EARN $70,000+ ANNUALLY. Earning potential is based on experience.
The Miami Beach Adult & Community Education Center (MBA) was proud to host Mr. Richard LePore, Financial Advisor of Evershore Financial Group which specializes in offering comprehensive wealth management tailored to the unique needs of individuals and businesses. Mr. LePore was invited as PrincipalTODAY on December 6, 2018. He had his work cut out for him! This visit allowed Mr. Lepore to see the complexity of running a successful and vibrant school. In addition to shadowing the school’s Principal, Ms. C. Osborne, Mr. R. LePore visited classrooms, introduced the District presenter for the professional development workshop, observed payroll procedures, communicated with security personnel over a two-way radio, and toured the MBA’s state-of-the-art technology labs. Mr. LePore spoke to teachers and students about his own career and the importance of “giving back” to the community. No doubt, both Mr. LePore and our students benefitted from this unique learning experience!

**Giving Back...**

“No one has ever become poor by giving.”

—Anne Frank

www.miamibeachadult.com

Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College
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$40,770

Lindsey Hopkins Technical College (LHTC) Students Participate in Miami Bayside Foundation “WE ARE MIAMI”: Held at Historic Alfred I. DuPont Building in Downtown Miami on February 21, 2019

At this annual event, Miami Bayside Foundation, the GORT Scholarship recipients, sponsors, and partners showcased their organizations to approximately 250 supporters and guests. Commissioner Wifredo “Willy” Gort was honored for his leadership role, his many years of service, and his generous financial support of educational opportunities for students who live and attend school in City of Miami Commission District 1. Currently, seven students from LHTC are recipients of the Gort scholarship; and five attended the fundraiser to show their appreciation to the man who has assisted them to reach their educational goals through the Willy Gort Scholarship. Ms. Toni Foster and Ms. Lizabeth Perez-Varela spoke to attendees about their career goals: their words of appreciation brought tears to Commissioner Gort’s eyes. This event was also a wonderful opportunity for our students to network with many organizations. Those present were: Ms. Lizabeth Perez-Varela – Practical Nursing Program; Mr. Paola Sarda – of the Patient Care Assistant Program; Mr. Carlos Perez – from the Braman Automotive Program; Mr. Florentino Alvarez – of the Marine Technology Program; Ms. Toni Foster – of the Commercial Art Program; and two counselors, Ms. Margarita Descartes and Ms. Brenda Hach.

www.lindseyhopkins.edu
The Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition (also known for generations as “The Fair”) is celebrating its 68th anniversary. The Fair is the largest in Florida, runs for several weeks from the middle of March through the first week in April, and is visited by more than half a million people each year. In the midst of amusement rides, Kiddielands, food kiosks, livestock and agricultural competitions, concerts, and circus acts stands a booth staffed by a rotating group of our Adult Education Staff and Students as well as District personnel. The booth, of course, proudly promotes our Adult and Career Technical Education (CTE) programs.

On March 15, 2019, staff from the Miami Springs Adult Education Center took their turn manning the booth. Mr. James Bryant, a visitor to the Fair, who teaches at Hialeah Gardens High School, commended our staff on a job well done. Mr. Bryant noted the table was surrounded by prospective students who were bursting with questions about our Adult Education programs. He was particularly impressed with the knowledge and composure of Mr. Jonathan Buente and Mr. Alexander Garcia as they fielded questions and provided information regarding our Adult Education programs.

www.miamispringsadultedu.com

Above, Miami Springs Adult Education Center Associates, Mr. Jonathan Buente and Mr. Alex Garcia speak with a Prospective Client during a Recent District Marketing Event in the Arnold Hall at the Miami-Dade County Fair and Exposition. Interested Patrons were able to inquire about Course Offerings – Including Vocational/Technical Classes – at Our Various Campuses

**Adult Education Represented at The Fair: Annual Event Promotes District’s Adult and Career Technical Education Programs**

**GET A CAREER IN A YEAR**

- Day and Evening Classes
- No Large Loans to Repay
- Financial Aid and Veterans’ Educational Benefits (To those who qualify)
- Most Programs Accredited by The Council on Occupational Education
- 7 Locations throughout Miami-Dade County

*Get a Career in a Year applies to most program*
Teacher of the Month: Congratulations to Ms. RuNaia Jackson, GED® Instructor

The Miami Beach Adult & Community Education Center (MBA) is proud to announce its Teacher of the Month: Ms. RuNaia Jackson, GED® Teacher, is our Teacher of the Month for February. A 20-year veteran, Ms. Jackson also works full-time as a fifth-grade math teacher at Holmes Elementary School. She is well-prepared for the rigors of teaching and discipline, having taught at the Jan Mann Educational Center, Juvenile Justice Center School, and Earlington Heights Elementary School.

Ms. Jackson’s commitment to at-risk students is exemplified by her guiding motto: “A broken clock is right twice a day.” She believes her students succeed because they are resilient: they flourish despite, not because of, prior hardships. At the MBA, Ms. Jackson works two nights a week to prepare students for the GED® examination. Her winning smile and strong work ethic let students know that if they follow her lead, they will excel on the test and receive an internationally accepted diploma. In the words of her Principal, Ms. Chantal Osborne, “the MBA is fortunate to have a teacher with Jackson’s skills and dedication.”

www.miamibeachadult.com

Students Get the Dings Out! Two Foundations Promote Programs in Transportation Careers

Yes, we teach our students to “get the dings and dents out!” Did you know about our Automotive Collision Repair and Refinishing program at Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College (MLECTC) and Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College? This “Career in a Year” occupational program prepares students for jobs as technicians paying competitive wages in an occupation that is projected to grow.

www.careerinayear.com

Repair Education Foundation and the TechForce Foundation collaborated with MLECTC to host a High School and College Transportation Career Fair informing students about various transportation industry opportunities. Attending were representatives from different collision industries such as Mercedes Benz, Lender Industrial Machinery, Honda, and Toyota. These industry “reps” shared information about employment opportunities including salaries and benefits with students. Thanks to Mr. Brandon Eckenrode, Director of Development for the Collision Repair Education Foundation for bringing this unique and innovative opportunity to the students of Miami-Dade County.
Black History Month Celebrated at Lindsey Hopkins Technical College: February 27th, 2019 Festivities

Our students, staff and visitors at Lindsey Hopkins Technical College (LHTEC) participated in a joyous and educational celebration of Black History Month featuring student performers, awards for student poetry and design, and historical journeys from Haiti to the United States, and the Haitian Revolution, which took place between 1791-1804. Yes, Haiti has influenced and helped African Americans achieve freedom, equality, and advancement. It is the only country where slaves took their freedom by force. Dr. Charlene Desir, a Harvard alumna and full-time professor at Nova Southeastern University, described the amazing and wonderful connection between Black Americans of Haitian, Hispanic, Caribbean, and American descent, focusing on the abolition of slavery, women’s rights, civil rights, and the pursuit of higher education. For all those present, Dr. Desir’s lecture proved to be an eye-opening experience of our interconnectedness and intersectionality. Participants gave Dr. Charlene Desir an ovation and she later commented on how much she enjoyed her visit. Lindsey Hopkins Technical College (LHTEC) strives to provide its student body with a variety of cultural experiences, and exposure to influential people of character. LHTEC is committed to enhance its academic offerings with exposure to many and varied aspects of the humanities: art, music, and history.

www.lindseyhopkins.edu
The English Center Students Visit Downtown Library: Students Get Library Cards and Put Them To Immediate Use

One of the added benefits of working as an educator is to introduce students to extra curricular activities, such as conducting a lesson in a historical setting.

Mr. Mario Bernal, and his students in The English Center’s “Success Pathways” program, visited the main branch of the Miami-Dade County Public Library System. There, they applied for and immediately received – and used – Library Cards. In addition, they put into practice the lessons taught by Ms. Jessica Iglesias, the representative of the Public Library System. The goal of the “Success Pathways Program” is for students to pass the GED®. The English Center accomplishes this by assisting students who are functioning at the lower levels in English and providing them with intensive preparation for the five GED® sections: Language Arts (Reading); Language Arts (Writing); Social Studies; Science; and Mathematics.

Jessica Iglesias, the representative of the Public Library System. The goal of the “Success Pathways Program” is for students to pass the GED®. The English Center accomplishes this by assisting students who are functioning at the lower levels in English and providing them with intensive preparation for the five GED® sections: Language Arts (Reading); Language Arts (Writing); Social Studies; Science; and Mathematics.

http://www.tecmiami.net

Above, the Main Library Shares its Home in the Miami-Dade Cultural Center with the Historical Museum of Southern Florida and the Miami Art Museum

Above, Pictured Here are Students in the Success Pathways Program Along With their Teacher, Mr. Mario Bernal, Visiting the Miami-Dade County Public Library, after Receiving Guidance from Ms. Jessica Iglesias, One of the Representatives from the Library System

Read...

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies . . .
The man who never reads lives only one.”

— George R.R. Martin

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On Saturday, February 16, 2019, Lindsey Hopkins Technical College (LHTC) Marine Service Technologies program award-winning teacher Ricardo Losada and Assistant Principal Rodriguez attended the Miami International Boat Show. They were accompanied by nine of our Technical College students. This demonstrates that when education partners with industry, everybody WINS! Students took the opportunity to participate in their premier industry trade show and make valuable connections as well as network with countless vendors. The event provided a unique and unforgettable learning experience outside the classroom. Joe Maniscalco of Yamaha Corp. and Pedro Molina of Bob Hewes Boats, representing two LHTC Marine partners, hosted the group and shared the latest on developments in marine engine technology along with their collective wisdom. Students used the day to tour the venue and engaged in much Q&A with their escorts and vendors. The day culminated in a yacht ride on Biscayne Bay. Students who attended the day-long event were: Martin Handler-Fiedler, Adam Laidley, Carlos Rivera, Anthony Zorio, Deangelo Perez, Kyle Fordyce, Michael Rhyne, Frank Blanco, and Angel Hernandez. A tenth student, Dagoberto Gonzalez, represented LHTC well by working all five days of the event with many representatives from the historic Shipyard, RMK Merrill-Stevens. This company is a Miami based, full-service shipyard dedicated to the refit and repair of the world’s finest yachts and vessels. RMK Merrill Stevens is a LHTC Marine Internship partner.
On March 13, 2019, a group of female students at the George T. Baker Aviation Technical College attended an amazing luncheon hosted by the Greater Miami Aviation Association (GMAA). It was established in 1927, and is now one of the largest and oldest Civic and Business Aviation Associations in the Americas. GMAA works with other organizations, industry leaders, government and civic leaders to promote the aviation industry, especially in South Florida. The luncheon featured a panel discussion led by five “Senior Level Executive Women in Aviation.” The group addressed the past and future roles of women in aviation. Students not only listened, but actively participated in panel discussions on aircraft maintenance, minority entrepreneurship, and business management skills. They also networked with some of the leading women in the aviation industry and learned, first hand, about their inspiring lives and work histories. Finally, funds raised by the luncheon went to the GMAA “Batchelor Fund” for student assistance.

www.bakeraviationtechcollege.com
Mr. Jerry Bein-aime, was born and raised in Haiti. His wife immigrated to Miami, FL in 2006 with their four children seeking a better life for her family. It was six years later, in 2012, when Jerry was finally able to settle in Miami on a permanent basis. Now, in the United States of America he needed to find a viable career. This was an easy decision for Mr. Bein-aime because he brought with him nearly 20 years of experience as an automobile mechanic.

Anyone else would have been discouraged by the various certifications required by garages for full-time employees. Mr. Bein-aime found a solution at a vocational school. Unfortunately, this experience did not go well. Mr. Bein-aime’s life changed for the better, however, when a friend told him about the automotive program at D.A. Dorsey Technical College. Jerry learned about the knowledge and compassion that the instructor, Mr. Michael McNeely, had for his profession and his students. Consequently, Mr. Bein-aime enrolled at the College in 2017-2018. While attending this program, Mr. Bein-aime, like many students, worked full-time during the evenings (in a restaurant). This was an upgrade of his situation before attending D. A. Dorsey Technical College when he initially worked three jobs at the same time.

In May, 2018, Mr. Bein-aime benefited greatly from the mentoring of Mr. McNeely and the outstanding leadership of Principal Dr. Angela E. Thomas-DuPree who helped to establish a partnership between D. A. Dorsey Technical College and the M-DCPS John Schee Transportation Center. This collaboration created an off-site apprenticeship at the John Schee Center where students were trained – under supervision – to repair and service the county’s fleet of vehicles. Mr. Bein-aime’s work ethic, professionalism, respect, punctuality, and positive attitude at the worksite so impressed the management of the Transportation Center that it offered him a full-time position as a helper at $14.46 per hour – contingent upon him remaining in school with Mr. McNeely and earning his Commercial Driver’s License (CDL). And all this, after only observing his work for 60 days.

Mr. Bein-aime passed his CDL course and is now fully employed by the Transportation Center and is currently enrolled at D.A. Dorsey Technical College. Jerry Bein-aime is a prime example of the School District’s “get a career in a year” campaign – and in his case, even less than a year!
The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex. Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Florida Education Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee. Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status. Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information. Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002 – no public school shall deny equal access to or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society). Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment. In Addition: School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517 - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political