

REALnews

2021 EDITION 2



Adult/Technical Colleges and Educational Opportunity and Access APRIL 2021



CONTRIBUTORS

Division of Educational Opportunity and Access

**Lindsey Hopkins
Technical College (LHTC)**

**Miami Beach Adult and
Community Education
Center**

**North Miami Adult
Education Center**

**Robert Morgan
Educational Center &
Technical College**

**South Dade Technical
College**

Congratulations to Ronald Hush, AFSCME Employee of the Year: Always a Winner In our Books



▶ Above: From (L) to (R), the AFSCME President: Ms. Phyllis Leflore, Our AFSCME Employee of the Year District Winner: Mr. Ronald Hush, School Board Member: Ms. Luisa Santos of District 9, and Assistant Superintendent of School Operations: Mr Luis E. Diaz



▶ Above: From (L) to (R), District Director: Mr. René Mantilla, Our Proud Awardee: Mr. Ronald Hush, District Director: Ms. Renny L. Neyra, Assistant Superintendent: Mr. Luis E. Diaz and Administrative Director: Dr. Reginald H. Johnson



▶ Above: From (L) to (R), Assistant Principal SDTC: Mr. Phaion Hicks, AFSCME Employee of the Year District Winner: Mr. Ronald Hush, Principal SDTC: Dr. Susana Mauri and Assistant Principal SDTC: Mr. Modesto Gutierrez

It was a joyous day on Thursday, March 18, 2021, AFSCME President Phyllis Leflore announced Mr. Ronald Hush, Head Custodian, as the M-DCPS AFSCME Employee of the Year! Mr. Hush received the keys to a dazzling new 2021 Toyota sponsored by North Miami Toyota and a \$1000.00 check. Wow!

Due to these unprecedented times, all recognitions are done virtually. Luckily for South Dade Technical College (SDTC), they were able to gather the School Board Member for District 9, Ms. Luisa Santos, the Regional Staff and the entire SDTC faculty and staff to witness this event. It was a moment to cherish.

Mr. Ronald Hush arrived at Homestead, Florida as a little boy. He attended South Dade Senior High School and graduated in 1994. Mr. Hush started working for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) in 1998 when he began as a Security Monitor for Homestead Middle School. In 2006, he worked as custodian for William Chapman Elementary. He

then transferred to Mandarin Lakes K-8 Center where he was promoted to Lead Custodian and Security. In 2012, Mr. Hush interviewed for the Head Custodian position at South Dade Technical College.

Mr. Hush's work ethics are exceptional. He is a true team leader. His custodial staff celebrated alongside him as he recognized their efforts in making this possible. Mr. Hush does more than just lead a team of custodial staff, he sets the expectation of the job as well. He goes beyond his call of duty and assists other schools in the District. He is very well known to many custodial teams and the Plant Operations team.

But it doesn't stop here. Mr. Hush is very active in his community. He mentors many students in the South Dade area, and is actively engaged with the 5000 Role Models at Richmond Heights Middle School. His wife, Deidre Hush, is a registrar at that school. The principal, Ms. Larhonda Donaldson, is honored to have the Hush's on her team as well. Mr. Hush organizes annual book-bag drives and

toy drives for the children of the South Dade community. He was very active in our District sponsored food drives where 500 meals were provided to the local community at the Skills Center Campus. Mr. Hush enjoys serving his community at large and makes a positive difference.

Mr. Ronald Hush truly embodies the motto at South Dade Technical College: "Creating Opportunities for Success for all." We at SDTC are honored to have Mr. Hush represent not only our school, but also the local community. He is changing the lives of not only his four sons and grandson, but also our youth. Through his mentorship, he provides a richer perspective of the world to our students and allows them to grow in compassion and empathy, helping to develop a global perspective of what community really means.

We are very proud of Mr. Ronald Hush and wish him future recognition at the State level! We hope to bring back another win for Miami Dade County Public Schools and the South Dade Community.

<https://www.southdadetech.edu/>





School Board Member Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller Visits Miami Beach Adult: Dedicated to Our Core Values To Strive for Excellence in All Our Academic Pursuits



▶ Above: From (L) to (R) Principal: Ms. Chantal G. Osborne welcomes Our School Board Member: Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller of District 3 along with Assistant Principal: Mr. Steven Payne to Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center



▶ Above: School Board Member, Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, District 3 Converses with Principal: Ms. Chantal G. Osborne

Principal, Ms. Chantal G. Osborne warmly welcomed School Board member Ms. Lucia Baez-Geller, District 3, to Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center. Ms. Osborne introduced school personnel and provided a tour of the vibrant facility. In addition, she shared MBA's marketing/branding initiatives, School

Accountability, educational programs, and services offering such as English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL), Adult Basic Education (ABE), GED®, High School Credit Recovery and the Adult-Special Needs Assistance Project (A-SNAP) which is targeted at Adults with Disabilities and Senior Adult Learners.



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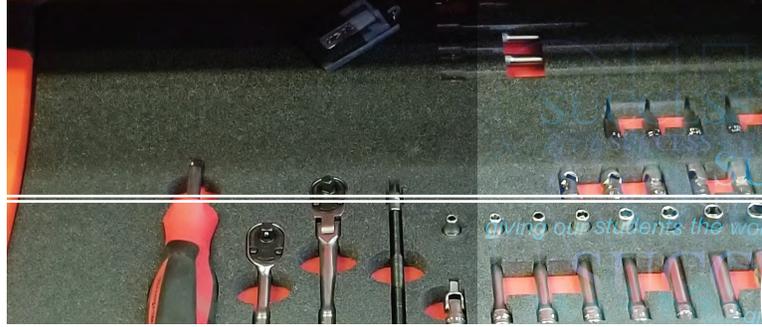
- NORTH MIAMI BEACH SENIOR
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- TREASURE ISLAND ELEMENTARY
- MIAMI BEACH SENIOR HIGH
- SOUTH POINTE ELEMENTARY
- FENBERG FISHER
- MIAMI BEACH SENIORS CENTER

Multi Channel approaches to Marketing

- Collaboration with Feeder Pattern Schools
- Flyer Distribution at neighbouring schools
- Fence Banners at North Miami Beach Sr. and all Miami Beach M-DCPS Locations
- FOCUS E-mail Blast to Student Database

<https://www.miamibeachadult.com>





Lindsey Hopkins Technical College Collaborates with Auto Body Shop: Working Together to Prepare a New Generation to Enter the Workforce



▶ Above: Our Lindsey Hopkins Technical College (LHTC) Auto Body Repair Students with Mr. Henry Gonzalez, Owner and Ms. Maria Cox, Manager of De Colores Paint & Body Shop

Lindsey Hopkins Technical College (LHTC), which has served over 1,700 students per trimester with flexible programs over the years, continually works with industry partners to help students advance. Recently, the school formed a partnership with De Colores Paint & Body Shop, located at 280 SW 22nd Avenue in Miami, Florida, to better prepare its students for the demands of the industry.

The paint and body shop is owned and operated by Mr. Henry Gonzalez. In true community spirit, Henry is graciously supporting a learning environment to help educate Lindsey Hopkins' students. He is helping to provide a real-world work situation to ensure that students are ready to address the future needs of the automotive collision industry.



▶ Above: Two of LHTC Auto Body Collision Repair Students Diligently Working on a Bumper of a Vehicle



▶ Above Mr. Henry Gonzalez, Owner of De Colores Providing LHTC Students the Technical Knowledge on How to Remove the Hitch Components on a Vehicle, Once the Bumper was Removed

Unlike most other colleges, students from LHTC are not only educated in the classroom but also in the industry, such as De Colores Paint & Body Shop where they are immersed in hands-on learning. They gain real world experience as they are hired part-time while they study. As a result, our staff and faculty can nurture students' talent from the beginning of their educational journey.

This partnership ensures that students will gain skills in metal straightening, welding, frame alignment and much more to ensure domestic and foreign vehicles will look like they just left the showroom floor.

Among its many benefits, this collaboration ensures that students learn skills which similar companies deem useful in the working world.

This collaboration also showcases the latest technological innovations,



▶ Above: LHTC Auto Collision Students Removing a Rear Bumper

research and thought leadership coming from various companies.

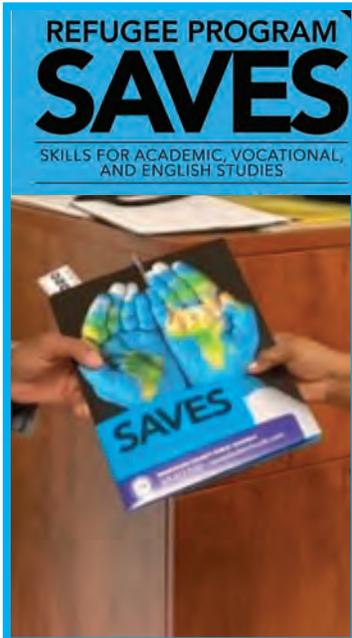
In addition, it provides our students with confidence to venture out to new endeavors.

While institutions and industry work together to narrow the skills gap for eager minds, they also provide a path to success. Collaboration such as this allows students the opportunity to shape the development of the industry they chose as a career.



Lesly Jean Francois – Learning A Skill in High Demand: A Very Appreciative and Grateful Achiever

► Our Innovative SAVES Refugee Program at Miami-Dade County Public Schools Allows Many Students Seeking Asylum the Opportunity to Jump Start Their Educational Pursuits



► Above: Mr. Lesly Jean Francois, a Refugee Student from Haiti Meets with the SAVES Counselor at North Miami Adult Education Center for Engaging and Educating Conversation that Provides Him with the Information of SAVES Technical Assistance, Allowing Him the Opportunities for a Better Lifestyle

Mr. Lesly Jean Francois was born and raised in Haiti. He worked as a cashier before coming to the United States in February 2020 with hopes of building a better life for himself here. Shortly after his arrival, Mr. Francois made his way to the North Miami Adult Education Center.

There, he was introduced to a plethora of vocational programs at the school. The center is an oasis for students seeking the opportunity to jump start their educational pursuits. His goal was to develop the technical skills necessary to make him a

successful candidate for today's workplace. Since, Mr. Francois wanted to learn a skill in demand, he decided to pursue the Administrative Assistant Program.

The school's registration team referred him to the Skills for Academic, Vocational and English Studies (SAVES) program to provide academic guidance and literacy coursework; more importantly SAVES provided him financial assistance. The SAVES program paid for Mr. Francois' tuition for three classes, all of which he successfully completed.



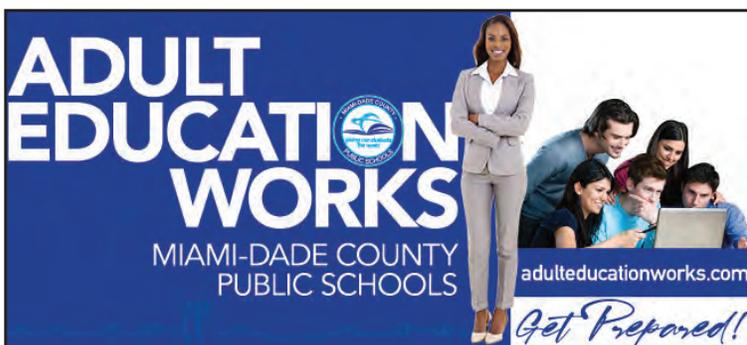
► The SAVES Program is Offered at 14 Adult Education Centers and Technical Colleges. Our purpose is to Deliver Refugee Adult Education, Vocational Education Services and Scholarships to Eligible Clients

of business software, and enjoys the hands-on class components. He has now gained the necessary skills needed to make him more marketable in today's fast growing, tech-savvy, competitive business arena.

Mr. Francois is extremely grateful for the opportunities this country has afforded him. With the encouragement of his teachers and mentors, he has become more adept in technology and proficient in essential computer skills.

Mr. Francois is highly motivated and scheduled to complete his field of study at the end of 2021. Upon completing his studies, Mr. Francois plans to enter the job market with the skills necessary for him to succeed in his newly chosen career and fulfill all his newfound hopes and dreams.

Mr. Francois is very appreciative of the staff at the North Miami Adult Education Center, and more specifically, the patience of his teachers. Their kindness and empathy have further fueled his determination to succeed. Currently, Lesly is highly proficient in a variety



<https://www.northmiamiadultedu.com/>



Educational Alternative Outreach Program and The Teenage Parent Program Partner with Immanuel Temple: Creating a Dynamic Team, Impacting Teens and Educators

The Educational Alternative Outreach Program (EAOP) is comprised of 28 centers, which serve students who are outside the mainstream school program. EAOP is tailored to the needs of children at risk. While, the Teenage Parent Program (TAP) is a comprehensive dropout prevention program that is designed to provide educational and ancillary services to pregnant and parenting students enrolled in any of our schools. TAP also provides health services, social services, transportation and childcare services to foster student success.

Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has continued to serve these students by providing informal counseling and social support. Staff from these programs is able to advocate and connect people to services. This, in turn, empowers students by improving their self-management skills.

One of these skills is the continued and ever-strengthening partnership with Immanuel Temple — A ministry of the AME Church which has shown its commitment to growing participants in grace and giving back to the community. This enduring



► Above: From Left to Right—Dr Theron Clark: Co-Principal EAOP, Ms. Sabrina Payne—Director Path Academy, Student from Path Academy, Mr Alberto Iber— Co-Principal EAOP, and Pastor John F. White of Immanuel Temple AME Church. Pastor White and Immanuel Church is One of Our Community Partners That Makes Monthly Donations of \$200 in Walmart Gift Cards to Selected Students in EAOP as Incentives for Learning.

partnership has blossomed to include church-sponsored events, activities for staff and generous financial cash contributions for students.

Recently, Pastor John F. White II made a \$100.00 donation to a deserving student enrolled in the Early Academic Outreach Program (EAOP's) Path Academy. As a result, this student showed a 180 degree turn in behavior

and academic performance.

Ms. Sabrina Payne, Director of Path Academy utilized the cash donation as an incentive to motivate and encourage other students to strive for improvement in academic, personal and civic responsibilities. In addition to the \$100.00 cash donation, Pastor White then committed to sponsoring a luncheon for EAOP and TAP, during

Teacher Appreciation Week which is scheduled for May 2nd through May 8th, 2021.

M-DCPS's impact and renewed commitment to the community is an important factor in the intervention of our students at high risk and can set the course for their upward mobility and their success in living the American dream.

<https://deoamdcps.org/>



1350

HOURS

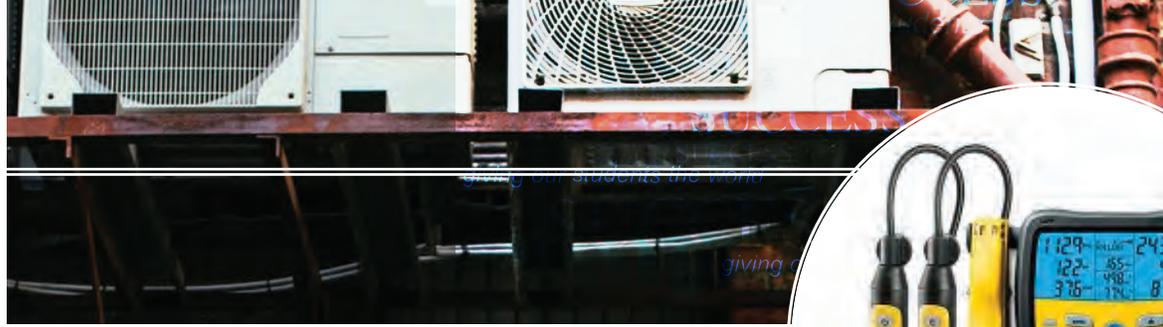
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POWERPLANT MECHANIC



Joseph Rodriguez Completes HVAC Program During the Covid Pandemic: Attitude is Everything!



Above: Mr. Joseph Rodriguez, Now a Successful Active Participant in the Workforce, Thanks to His Detailed Training at South Dade Technical College

Mr. Joseph Rodriguez registered for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Mechanics at South Dade Technical College in August 2019. He instinctively knew he had made the right decision. From day one of class, he immediately felt at ease with instructor, Mr. Derek Bostick, who

assured the class every day “that with hard work, dedication and planning everyone can complete his program.”

At that time, Joseph was employed on a part-time basis at a grocery store chain while attending school and he didn’t want to be stuck as a part-time employee with a low salary. He was

determined to pursue a career, for a better life. During class training, he was encouraged to learn something every day, and developed the necessary skills to secure a better future.

One of the most important lessons in life in achieving your greatest potential is to learn to monitor your attitude and its impact on your work performance, relationships and everyone around you. Mr. Bostick, true to his nature, always made sure to remind his students of this. He pushed his students to work through obstacles and encouraged Joseph to just keep learning.

The class pursued learning during the pandemic, working on Zoom. Joseph diligently continued to study and assumed self-motivation with enthusiasm and a positive outlook. His aim was to absorb as much information as possible and develop skills in the field of HVAC, which he did.

Today, Mr. Joseph Rodriguez has

proudly completed the program with the required Career and Technical Education certifications, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) license, Occupational Safety and Health Act (OSHA) safety license and a strong foundation in the HVAC trade. He is currently employed at a resort in the Florida Keys and receives Insurance, a 401k and a handsome paycheck. Joseph’s tenure at South Dade Technical College attending the HVAC program allowed him to improve himself immensely and provided him with a jump-start to a lucrative career.

Joseph has also taken away the affirmations and visualizations of his mentor and instructor: “You can do anything you put your mind to.” So a warm congratulations to Joseph. We at South Dade Technical College are extremely proud of your efforts.

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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 gender. 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 Educational 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