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2023 Fall Technical College Career Expo

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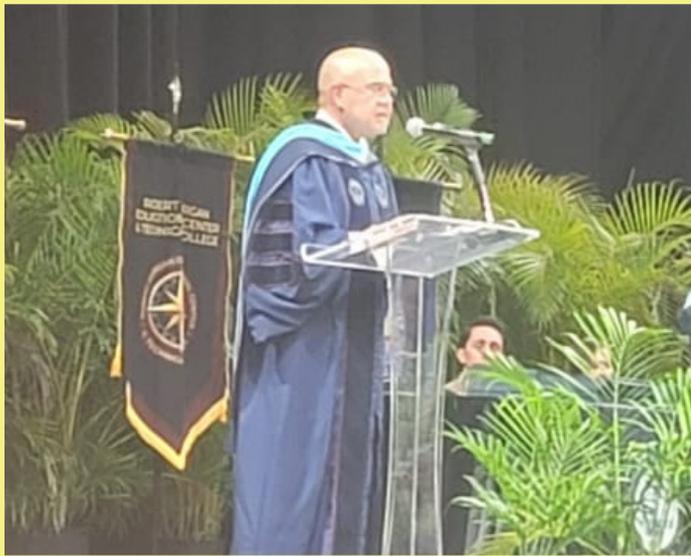
Students gather outside the drop-off station at The Fair to take photos outside of the Fall Technical College Expo

October 2023 marks one year since the Office of Postsecondary Career and Technical Education (OPCTE) hosted its first district-wide Career EXPO at the Miami-Dade County Fair & Exposition in the Fuchs Pavilion. During this period, OPCTE has had three 2-day expositions showcasing the various career programs offered at its seven Technical Colleges. In addition, the event featured live demonstrations in programs like cosmetology, commercial arts, fashion technology, welding, automotive, health occupations and much more. Approximately 3,500 Miami-Dade high school, middle school and charter school students attended the expo and were able to engage with industry experts and Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructors while exploring career pathways with hands-on training. The event took place on Wednesday, October 4th and Thursday, October 5th in the Darwin Fuchs pavilion at The Fair grounds. Students were very excited about the experience. Towards the end, there was a bingo drawing, and several students had an opportunity to win prizes such as gift cards to Chick-Fil-A, Dunkin Donuts, and Starbucks. Additionally, tickets to a UM game and House of Horrors were also awarded. Needless to say, the event was a tremendous success.



Technical Colleges Inaugural Commencement at University of Miami

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Dr. Jose L. Dotres welcomes graduates and families to inaugural commencement

M-DCPS Technical Colleges celebrated its inaugural commencement in the Watsco Center at the University of Miami on July 25, 2023. The graduation ceremony was the first ever to be held outside the school district in honor of our postsecondary students. This event marked an important milestone for the Technical Colleges as it was attended by various notable figures including delegates such as the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Jose L. Dotres, School Board Members, district administrators, principals of the seven Technical Colleges, and selected instructors. There was a substantial turnout with over 300 graduates in attendance, along with their friends and families. This strong support from loved ones was truly heartening, especially for the older students which reflected a sense of change and hope for a better future. In essence, the event embodies part of the mission of the Technical Colleges, which is to empower students to lead a productive and fulfilling life as lifelong learners and responsible citizens. No doubt this commencement ceremony was a momentous occasion for the Technical Colleges allowing for the celebration of graduates' achievements, while highlighting the importance of continuing education for adult learners.



Lindsey Hopkins Students Recognized by Miami Women's Club

lindseyhopkins.edu



Miami Women's Club Representatives with Mr. René Mantilla

Remarkable news! In April 2023, the Miami Women's Club sponsored a scholarship award program for female students in technical colleges. The \$2,500 scholarship is a generous contribution to support the education of female students pursuing technical careers. It's also worth noting that three students from Lindsey Hopkins Technical College were awarded this scholarship on September 13th, at the Miami Women's Club, located at 1737 North Bayshore Drive, Miami, FL 33132. This recognition and financial support will undoubtedly help the recipients pursue their education and future careers in the health field. This commendable initiative by the Miami Women's Club promotes the technical education and empowerment of women in the community. Congratulations to our winners: Saadya Studwell, Elvitha Saintilme and Jennifer Jay-Lozano from the Health Occupations program.



Principal of Miami Beach Adult Center Receives ACE Award

miamibeachadult.com



The "John E. Lawrence Administrator of the Year" award goes to Ms. Cristina Ugalde

ACE of Florida is the state professional organization that represents, promotes and advocates for adult and community education. Every year, counties across Florida compete for the prestigious "John E. Lawrence Administrator of the Year" award. This honor is given to an administrator who has demonstrated outstanding achievements in adult and community education.

This year Miami-Dade County Public Schools OPCTE very own Ms. Cristina Ugalde, Principal of Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center (MBA) is the proud recipient of this award. She was nominated by her Assistant Principal, Ms. Madeline Mendez.

Ms. Ugalde is entering her 22nd year in education with M-DCPS. During her tenure, she has worked in various capacities including ESE Teacher and Department Head, District Transition Specialist, Assistant Principal and currently Principal of MBA. She is a proud mom of twin 15-year-olds and is currently pursuing a Doctorate degree in Educational Leadership and Policy Studies at FIU.

Ms. Ugalde oversees four campuses and two off-sites across 17 miles with yearly enrollment averaging 2,800 students. In her two years as principal of MBA, Ms. Ugalde has sought innovative ways to reduce cost and increase enrollment and performance across all sites. She ensures her teachers are using targeted instruction to maximize student's learning gains. According to the OPCTE scorecard, MBA was the #1 performing post-secondary institution within the region for the 2022-2023 school year. Overall, since

her arrival at MBA, Ms. Ugalde has increased total enrollment by approximately 115% and performance by approximately 207%. Ms. Ugalde has also embraced the state's IET initiative bringing health care programs such as Phlebotomy and EKG to the North Miami Beach campus. She recently received a proclamation from the City of North Miami Beach for the expansion of programs at NMB Senior High. As a leader, Ms. Ugalde takes pride in being a mentor for all of MBA's faculty, staff and students. She believes in having an open-door policy and fosters a family-like environment. As part of community engagement efforts, she collaborates with the City of Miami Beach's Educational Department and is a member of the Kiwanis of Miami Beach and Miami Beach Chamber of Commerce. Additionally, Ms. Ugalde has increased the school's social media presence on Facebook, Instagram and X. She also created the school's Google page which has resulted in a 4.9 rating on Google reviews, a reflection of the school's quality of education and customer service under her leadership.

For the aforementioned initiatives and outstanding achievements, Ms. Cristina Ugalde has been named the 2023 ACE of Florida "John E. Lawrence Administrator of the Year".



Palmetto Adult Instructional Support Staff Wins ACE Award

palmettoadulthood.com



Mrs. Zenaida Ulloa named the 2023 ACE Instructional Support Staff winner

Miami Palmetto Adult & Community Education Center (MPA) has the distinct pleasure of announcing that one of its staff members, Zenaida (Zenny) Ulloa, has been selected as the 2023 ACE Instructional Support Staff of the year.

Zenny satisfies the definition of a team player. She currently serves as the Citizenship Program Specialist, student services specialist, and primary substitute teacher at MPA. Although Zenny’s focus is providing the initial orientation to the adult education students, she has many other roles as well.

Zenny is one of the most important members of the MPA team because she does an initial interview with students to help them select a program of interest prior to enrollment. During this time, she gets to know what their goals are for the program, as well as guide them through the process of the “BluAppl Connect”. Additionally, she discusses potential technical career opportunities for students and creates a career plan for them.

Moreover, she runs MPA’s Citizenship Program, and her student data speaks on her success. One hundred percent of her students who have taken the Citizenship

exam have passed the test on the first or second try! Mrs. Ulloa is also a part of the leadership team at MPA and is highly involved in the decision-making process of the school. Whenever MPA hires a new teacher, she gets paired with them to mentor and train them. She excels in using technology with her students and is known for creating virtual reality lessons and making things come to life in the classroom!



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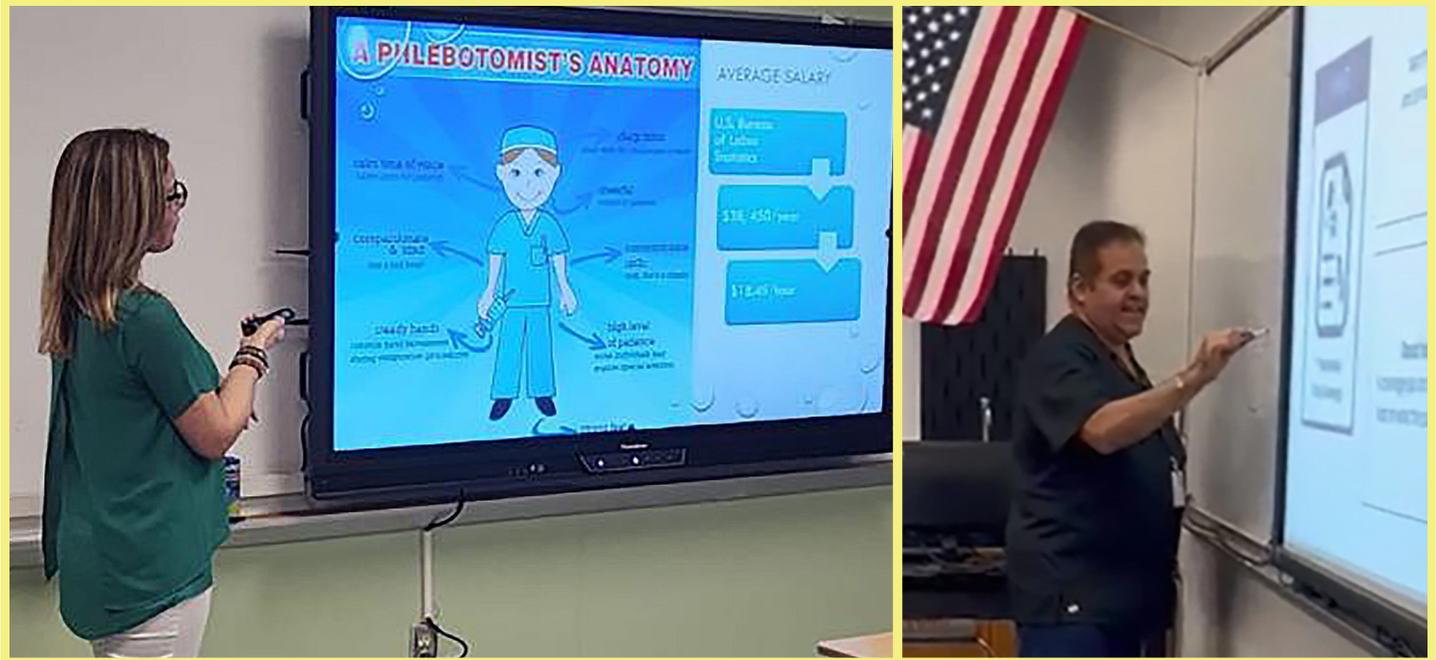
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IET Program at Miami Sunset Adult Education Center

sunsetadulthood.com



IET program instructors conducting lessons in health occupations

In January of 2023, Miami Sunset Adult Education Center started its first Integrated Education and Training (IET) course. But what is IET? Simply stated it embeds adult education and literacy with workforce preparation, which means you continue your language acquisition but work towards your career goals. The priority at Miami Sunset Adult Education Center is to listen to the needs of the community and the student's career goals.

This is where the school found there was a need for healthcare career paths. The first program, phlebotomy, filled up instantly with current students. The very next semester Miami Sunset announced an additional program for nursing assistants. Miami Sunset had student orientations to explain the process and expectations. The students start in a basic healthcare course the first semester and then continue their hours in their specialized areas the following semesters, all the while continuing their literacy skills. Upon completion the students will be able to work in their career of choice within a year. The school also works with the students to continue their education

at nearby technical colleges in order to build on their current career. These programs are just the beginning of the IET implementation at Miami Sunset Adult Education and more opportunities will be announced in the coming year.

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IET Program at Miami Beach Adult & Community Education Center

miamibeachadult.com



Students from North Miami Beach displaying IET certificates of completion

Miami Beach Adult & Community Education Center offers I.E.T. @ North Miami Beach Senior High School.

The Integrated Education and Training (IET) programs support adults in gaining the skills needed to enter a career pathway that will offer them job training and eventually gainful employment. The IET programs combine adult basic skills education and job skills training to offer adult learners a streamlined opportunity to transition from adult basic education classes to help all adults reach their employment goals.

At North Miami Beach Senior High School, Miami Beach Adult offers two IET Programs. This trimester we are offering the Basic Healthcare Worker class which is the first OCP under the umbrella of Medical Assistant. This class is being taught by Ms. Xiomara Ramos, RN, and Ms. Christel Leroy, ESOL Instructor. Together they teach the class which is referred to as the Health Science Core. These two teachers work seamlessly together to provide the students with the curriculum while providing support with the language.

In addition, the students have the opportunity to learn in a lab setting with access to computers. The second IET Program being offered is the Information Technology course with the Microsoft Certifications. This class is being taught by Mr. Frane LaRose, a Certified Microsoft Instructor, together with Mr. Spencer Dauphin, the ESOL Instructor. Together they are teaching the students the skills necessary to obtain the Microsoft Certification.

We expect to continue offering IET Programs to help our students reach all of their educational goals and find gainful employment.

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Coral Gables Adult Receives a 10-Year Renewable Grant

coralgablesadulterdu.com



OPCTE administrators alongside president and CEO of the Coral Gables Community Foundation

Friday, June 2, 2023, was a significant day for the Coral Gables community with a social activity held in the Gardens at Bachour. This event had a special focus on recognizing recipients who were receiving special grants from the Coral Gables Community Foundation. Over three million dollars were awarded to various organizations, making a substantial contribution to the local community.

One notable highlight of the event was the recognition of the Coral Gables Adult Education Center. This was the only adult education center in Coral Gables to receive a grant of \$25,000. What sets the grant apart, is that it can be renewed each year for the next 10 years. This is a significant milestone as it is the first time that an adult education center in Coral Gables has received such recognition and financial support.

Dr. Louis Dash, Principal of Coral Gables Adult Center and Mr. Reginald J. Fox, Administrative Director of the OPCTE, were interviewed by both the media and the Coral Gables Community Foundation. The audience also included approximately 75 individuals from the City of Coral Gables including Mayor Vince C. Lago, along with board sponsors of the foundation. In addition, Ms. Mary Snow, President and CEO of the



Mr. Reginald Fox with Coral Gables Mayor Vince Lago

Coral Gables Community Foundation, and Mr. Robert Adams, Marketing and Program Manager of the foundation, who is not only a graduate of Coral Gables Senior High but also a friend of the Miami Dade County Public Schools, expressed their delight in recognizing the hard work and dedication of Coral Gables Adult Center in serving the community.

This is a well-deserved achievement. Congratulations are in order for Dr. Dash and his team, who played a significant role in making this happen. This grant will undoubtedly contribute to the betterment of the Coral Gables community and the education of its adult residents.



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