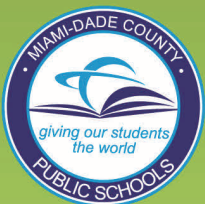


# SAVES Program

March 2016 — First Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## LEONARDO DEL TORO PURSUING HIS DREAMS

Mr. Leonardo Del Toro came from Cuba to the United States in March 2015 pursuing his dream of freedom and a better future for his family and for himself. He fulfilled his long-awaited dream, but paid the price that many Cuban immigrants face by being separated from their families while pursuing their goals. He attended the University in Cuba and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Electronics Engineering and a Master's Degree in Applied Computing from Central University of Las Villas.

Mr. Del Toro learned about the SAVES program and its benefits at Southwest Miami Adult Education Center. He enrolled in his first ESOL course a month after his arrival. He believes that having knowledge of the English language is imperative to build a successful future in this country. After advancing two levels in ESOL, he became eligible to have his diplomas and grades translated and validated at no cost through the SAVES program. He took advantage of this benefit in January 2016. Mr. Del Toro later registered in the Academic Skills class, the highest ESOL level at the school.

He has extensive experience in computers and networking and his goal is to work as an IT Specialist. He took the initiative to study online in courses related to this field, including CompTIA A and Cisco CCNA certifications. In October 2015, Mr. Del Toro found a job at the Best Buy Company and was recently pro-

moted to the position of Advanced Repair Agent in the Geek Squad Team. He receives job satisfaction by providing assistance to his clients.

Mr. Del Toro is very grateful and pleased with the SAVES program. SAVES paid for tuition, books and the translation of his university documents. He is also grateful to the Southwest Miami Adult Education Center staff for their support and to the teachers for their valuable lessons. They have always provided him with useful advice and information. Mr. Del Toro is confident that he is getting closer to achieving his goals and dreams.

