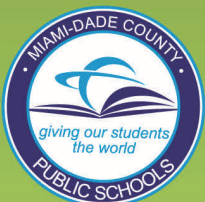


SAVES Program

October 2015— Second Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Sergio Pavon looking into the future

Mr. Sergio Pavon was born and raised in Puerto Padre, Cuba. He came to the United States in March 2013 to start a new life and to look for a better future. Mr. Pavon did not like the education system in Cuba and felt that the economy in his country would not allow him to achieve his goals.

Mr. Pavon wanted to go to school and study English to take the first step to succeed in the United States. He went to several centers and was told that there was a fee to attend classes. Since he could not afford the cost, he started looking for another school. He found Miami Senior High Adult Education Center. The school offered English and vocational classes and other benefits to refugees in Miami-Dade County through the federally funded program Skills for Academic and English Studies (SAVES). Mr. Pavon found Miami Senior Adult Education Center to be huge and gorgeous and as soon as he stepped foot into the school, he knew that it was for him.

At Miami Senior's SAVES office, Mr. Pavon was received by three wonderful staff and he felt at home. The school made such an impression on him that he still remembers his first ESOL Low Beginning class. Mr. Pavon liked the professor and also his classmates. According to him, he learned a lot in this class and was

excited for his future. Mr. Pavon did two levels of ESOL classes and then he decided to join Architectural Drafting. He finished all the Drafting courses and was blessed with a job in this field. He also took some ABE courses.

Currently, Mr. Pavon is taking GED classes with Professor Mr. Castillo, who according to Mr. Pavon is a great math teacher. Mr. Pavon plans to go to the university after he finishes GED. His goal is to leave from Miami Senior Adult Education Center taking advantage of all the benefits that the SAVES program offers and to take what he learned from this school into the real world. Mr. Pavon is really thankful for the SAVES program. His long term goal is to graduate from a university and find a great job. There is no doubt that he will achieve his goals.

