

# SAVES Program



## *Ms. Estrella Garcia with SAVES*

Ms. Estrella Garcia was born and raised in Cuba. She studied Special Education and earned a degree in 1980. She taught children with special needs for over 20 years while living in Cuba. On August 8, 2012, Ms. Garcia immigrated to the United States.

Soon after she arrived in Miami, Ms. Garcia registered at Miami Springs Adult with assistance from the SAVES program. She tested into the High Beginning English Level. Throughout 2013, she took each CASAS post-test and steadily moved through every English level. She displayed great interest and initiative, set and completed her goals, and took advantage of all SAVES benefits available to her.

Ms. Garcia's main goal is to once again work as a special needs instructor as she did in Cuba. She sees her language acquisition as her main barrier. However, she sees her persistence as her greatest asset in working towards her goals, which include earning a master's degree. Thanks to the SAVES program, one key program benefit was to have her degree from Cuba translated by Josef Silny & Associates.

Ms. Garcia studied at Hialeah Gardens for over a year, where she reached the English Advanced Level. She was offered an instructional position in the Adults Special Need Assistance Program (A-SNAP) at Miami Springs Adult, where she currently works with special-need students at United Cerebral Palsy of Miami.

Ms. Garcia is very happy since she is working in a field where she has a great deal of expertise.

Ms. Garcia would like to thank the SAVES program and the staff at Miami Springs Adult and Community Education Center for all their support, especially Principal Mr. Mike Veloso for the employment opportunity. She also thanks all her instructors as well as SAVES Site Coordinator Mr. Walter Centeno for their help and assistance. We wish Estrella Garcia the very best in her future endeavors.



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