## SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC, VOCATIONAL AND ENGLISH STUDIES

## **SAVES** Program



February 2013

Widdlyne Pierre with SAVES



## i-Dade County Public Schools Ε σ

M-DCPS

Widdlyne Pierre was born and raised in Haiti. She lost her mother when she was 12 and lived with her aunt until she finished 9<sup>th</sup> grade. When she was about to turn 17, she, along with her siblings, moved to the United States to live with her father and stepmother.

Two days after Ms. Pierre arrived, her stepmother took her to South-Dade Adult Center to register for classes, where she was referred to Ms. Sandel-Paris, a SAVES counselor. Ms. Sandel told her about all the great opportunities the SAVES program could offer to eligible students, such as free English classes, free books, free vocational classes, and bus passes.

Ms. Pierre was sent to the Skills Center because all the classes at the main campus were already full. It was a great chance for her since she had the possibility to see first-hand all the vocational classes that were offered. From September 2007 to December 2008, Widdlyne focused on her ESOL and ABE classes.

In 2009, Ms. Pierre stopped attending school due to the birth of her daughter. Although she was determined to pursue a career, she had to stay home for a few years until her daughter grew up. Widdlyne came back to school in 2012 and enrolled in the nails vocational course, which she completed. She is currently completing the facials course and hopes to learn another trade in the near future.

Widdlyne Pierre is very grateful to the SAVES program for the support with books and tuition. As she said, "It is never too late if you really want to achieve your dreams. When there is a will, there is a way." We wish her the very best in her future endeavors.



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