Recognizing 35 Years of Service: Mr. Robert G. Gornto Honored by School Board Members

On Wednesday, August 15, 2018, Mr. Robert G. Gornto, Assistant Superintendent, retired as Head of M-DCPS Adult/Technical Colleges and Educational Opportunity and Access. Dr. Lawrence S. Feldman, School Board Member for District 9, recognized Mr. Gornto's accomplishments and life-time career at the School Board Meeting. He will be sorely missed by all.

www.dadeschools.net/schoolboard/bdmembers.asp

Alternative Education Center Recognized: Five Consecutive Years as a Gold Model

Miami MacArthur Educational Center was recognized for the fifth consecutive year as a Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS) Gold Model. To date, this school has received this acknowledgement since 2013.

www.miamimacsouth.net
The Honorable Chair of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, Mrs. Perla Tabares Hantman, was in attendance to recognize and support the Success Management Academy (SMA) students on August 23, 2018, during a backpack giveaway sponsored by Gus Machado Ford, Sedanos, and the Office of Miami-Dade County Commissioner Esteban Bovo. SMA is a program of choice that provides an opportunity for immigrant students, between the ages of 16 and 18. These students have an opportunity to obtain their High School Equivalency Diploma while simultaneously receiving a rigorous curriculum of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).

Success Management Academy Students Receive Backpacks: Teamwork Matters!

On December 22, 2013, Mr. Amaury Ordaz arrived in the United States eager to start a new life. Born in Havana, Cuba, this immigrant was ready to do whatever it took to prosper. Luckily, one of his co-workers spoke to him about the Skills for Academic, Vocational and English Studies (SAVES) Program, and he was intrigued. Amaury enrolled at American Adult Education Center (AAEC) where he began English classes and, afterwards, finished with his high school diploma.

Amaury continued his studies when he enrolled in Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College, where he would receive financial aid and the opportunity to earn his Commercial Drivers’ License (CDL). After obtaining his CDL, he secured employment as a truck driver but realized, shortly thereafter, that he wanted more for his life. He returned to AAEC to seek something different. Upon his return, Amaury learned of the Hemodialysis courses, and this is where he found his calling. Since he was a young man, Amaury wanted to become a doctor, so he was excited to complete the Hemodialysis Program.

On April 2016, he began working as a volunteer in Jackson Memorial Hospital. Just two short weeks later, Amaury was offered employment with Apollo Renal Center, working side by side with Jackson Memorial Hospital. In March 2018, Amaury graduated from the Hemodialysis Program and began working at Jackson Memorial Hospital.

Amaury thoroughly enjoyed the training and experiences at AAEC and stated, “When you like something, you always have a good time.” His story is a perfect example of how the Adult Education/SAVES program can help someone pursue a desired career path. Amaury is extremely grateful to the SAVES program for opening so many doors for him to better his future.

www.americanadultedu.com
The Division of Educational Opportunity and Access (DEOA) Continuum of Programs addresses the needs of vulnerable students. Without a collective effort, said youth might fall through the cracks that may lead to barriers that prevents their successes and leads them down an unhealthy path.

On Tuesday, August 14, 2018, the DEOA sponsored its 4th Annual Collective Impact Community Based Organization (CBO) Networking Breakfast. This event was held at the Miami Lighthouse for the Blind and Visually Impaired with over 40 partners in attendance.
The faculty and staff at Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center also referred to as MBA were welcomed back to school on the evening of Wednesday, August 15, 2018. This year’s theme at the opening-of-school’s meeting, “Soaring to New Heights,” was an inspiration to all stakeholders. Accentuated by imitation boarding passes and passports, invitees truly felt as though the school was taking off with “The Sky’s the Limit,” the theme from previous years. Everyone was treated to a sumptuous Italian dinner, compliments of REMO catering. With more than a few teachers having a second helping, it was clear that the catered meal was a great success.

Following the dinner, Ms. Chantal G. Osborne, Principal of MBA, extended a warm welcome to the teachers and staff. She discussed the significance of the theme “Soaring to New Heights,” while encouraging everyone to do their best this school year. Ms. Osborne also stated the importance of the administration providing support for the faculty. Later that evening, Dr. Armando J. Gutierrez, Assistant Principal, addressed the faculty, discussing the learning objectives for the 2018 - 2019 school year. Implicit in his remarks was what he would look for in a classroom observation. Additionally, Mr. Lorenzo T. Stiles, Assistant Principal, offered tips on attendance and payroll procedures to help ensure a smooth academic year.

Our Teachers and staff members from numerous satellite sites (Fienberg-Fisher K-8, North Miami Beach Senior High School, Treasure Island Elementary School, Biscayne Elementary School, and Miami Beach Senior High School) had a chance to meet one another and to discuss and share best practices.

As one of the teachers commented, “Before tonight, I never realized how many sites were a part of Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center. It’s interesting to have a perspective on all of the programs offered.”

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In Service Training: Let’s Review District priorities for ESOL

For the event held on August 16, 2018, the administration and faculty of Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center (MBA) welcomed Ms. Roxana Hurtado, Curriculum Support Specialist from the Division of Adult and Workforce Education, to conduct an in-service workshop for teachers who work with new language learners. Using multi-media, Ms. Hurtado not only discussed district priorities for English for Speakers of Other Languages strategies, but she also provided teachers with valuable insight and tools for motivating learners. Both new and veteran MBA professionals were fully engaged, and Ms. Hurtado made them feel renewed energy and enthusiasm for the new academic year. A big thank you, Ms. Hurtado!
Teacher of the Month: Let’s Applaud Dr. Mary Jos Uchtman

On January 2018, the Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center, also referred to as MBA, honored a gifted ESOL teacher, Dr. Mary Jos (“MJ”) Uchtman. Although new to MBA, Dr. Uchtman is a veteran teacher who works during the day at Miami Beach Senior High School. In a matter of weeks, Dr. Uchtman has made significant improvements to the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) curriculum, using manipulatives, charts, as well as, interview strategies to encourage newly-arrived immigrant learners to master the English language. Dr. “MJ” exhibits boundless energy and a sincere belief in the unlimited potential of the students whom she serves. The administration, faculty, and students feel fortunate to have this gifted educator as part of the

Adult Education Student Success Story: Onward and Upward

A hearty congratulation to Alejandro Santana, one of our recent graduates, who shared his personal story at the graduation ceremony. A native of Ecuador, Alejandro dropped out of Miami Beach Senior High School, due to numerous personal issues and the need to support himself. At the age of 18, Alejandro held two jobs and worked more than 60 hours per week.

Through perseverance and discipline, he was able to start his own company three years later, Miami Mojito Company. Alejandro’s mantra is to keep moving forward and pursuing meaningful work. While enrolled at Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center (MBA), Alejandro also finished high school and earned his diploma. Alejandro credits the following teachers and administrators at MBA with enabling him to achieve this level of success and helping him to realize his dream: Ms. Osborne; Dr. Gutierrez; Mr. Moujahid; Ms. Garcia; Ms. Sahwell and Mr. Saiz.

www.miamibeachadult.com

Mary Jos Uchtman Ph. D interacting with one of her students. Miami Beach is Top Spot for Computer Classes in South Florida

Mami Beach is Top Spot for Computer Classes in South Florida

From left to right, Dr. Armando Gutierrez, Assistant Principal, Mr. Alejandro Santana, Student and Ms. Chantal Osborne, Principal

www.miamibeachadult.com

Above, Mr. Alejandro Santana, graduate, successfully launches company
Ms. Michelle Susset’s story is truly inspirational and remarkable. She arrived in the United States from Venezuela in 2014. She came determined to overcome adversity and realize her dreams of becoming a singer. However, in doing so, Michelle realized that she needed to learn English. To overcome the language barrier, she enrolled in the English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program during the mornings at Ruben Dario Adult Education Center (a satellite center for Miami Coral Park Adult Education Center). After a few years of attending the program, the 22-year-old singer was able to realize her dreams by becoming an American Idol Finalist.

Many students at Jan Mann Educational Center face numerous challenges in the community that impede their success. Ms. Austin, Career and Technical Education teacher at Jan Mann, is working to help students overcome said challenges through entrepreneurship initiatives. During summer recess, her student, Ms. Yanna Lee, participated and excelled in BizCamp™ sponsored by the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE).

Imagining...
if we could activate the entrepreneurial mindset of an entire generation.

While in BizCamp™, Yanna drafted her business plan for “Bright Lights,” a vehicle headlight restoration service. BizCamp™ awarded her a check in the amount of $200.00 for competing in the Business Plan competition. Yanna stated that “working with Ms. Austin and the NFTE program has helped her develop her entrepreneurial mindset”. She is anticipating about learning more of business and entrepreneurship this school year in Ms. Austin’s Digital Media class.
Mr. Lazaro Gomez came to George T. Baker Aviation Technical College from John A. Ferguson Senior High School as a dual enrolled student in August 2015. He completed his General courses in Aircraft Maintenance as a 10th grader and continued with the Powerplant Program during his junior and senior years. Mr. Lazaro Gomez has successfully completed the required Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) written examinations and, on August 23, 2018, and passed his Oral and Practical Exam, receiving his FAA Powerplant Certification. Today, Lazaro, pictured here with the Principal of George T. Baker Aviation Technical College, Ciro Hidalgo, is interviewing for a technician position with a major international aircraft maintenance company. Lazaro will continue his training at George T. Baker Aviation Technical College as an adult student and will soon receive his Airframe certification. Upon completing the program, he will be eligible to earn approximately $70,000 annually. This young man has only been out of high school for 60 days, and he already has a bright future. Congratulations, Lazaro! The sky is the limit at George T. Baker!!

www.bakeraviationtechcollege.com

The English Center Promotes Programs Aggressively: Increasing Public Awareness

The English Center (TEC), one of our seven Miami-Dade Technical Colleges, developed an aggressive promotional campaign to showcase all of its programs. The school has been consistently present at Calle 8 Viernes Culturales, or Calle 8 Cultural Fridays. The pictures above showcase campaign efforts. Ms. Valdes, a representative of the school, featured in the images, is standing next to the art galleries along Calle 8. In addition to this, the school was also present at Kensington Park Elementary School’s Open House, which was held over a two-day period. Both Ms. Valdes and Mr. Bernal actively promoted all programs and course offerings. Go TEC!

www.tecmiami.net
The dynamic staff of Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College (RMEC&TC) is excited to “SEAS” the Day/Carpe Diem for the 2018-2019 school year. What a better way to start the year than with a breakfast with faculty and staff from the technical college and high school. RMEC&TC consists of two campuses which represents one family with “Pirate Pride.” As a team, energized with love and education, we can create change in our world.

Opening of School: Carpe Diem
We are here to "Sieze the Day"

On August 23, 2018, students in the Success Pathways Program, at The English Center, decided to beautify their school by using recycled tires, unused wooden pallets, paint, plants, and mulch to create their own garden to showcase their hallway at the school. This beautification endeavor was cost neutral. All items and materials were donated by faculty, staff, and students at the school. Their effort is demonstrative of how wonderful these students are and how bright their futures may be.

Cleanup: Students Help Beautify School Grounds

www.robertmorgantech.net

www.tecmiami.net
The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. The Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment of workers who are at least 40. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications. Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P. L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statute) - provides for employment preferences for veterans. In addition: School Board Policies 1362, 2362, 4362, and 5517 - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of race, color, sex, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identification, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, citizenship status, and any other legally prohibited basis. Retaliation for engaging in a protected activity is also prohibited. For additional information contact: Office of Civil Rights Compliance (CRC), Executive Director/Title IX Coordinator, 155 N.E. 15th Street, Suite P104E, Miami, Florida 33132; Phone: (305) 995-1580 TDD: (305) 995-2400; Email: crc@dadeschools.net Website: http://crc.dadeschools.net.