Industry Partner Supports High End Residential Appliance Training: DACOR offers Specialized Training for Technicians

DACOR has partnered with the Major Appliance Repair program at Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College to create a regional training center. The first class was held on September 26, 2018 at the Technical College location. DACOR is a USA manufacturer specialized in high end appliances for residential use. The goal of this initiative is to train appliance installers and repair technicians, in the South Florida area, on how to service DACOR products.

UM Exchange 4 Change Program: Miami Youth Academy Students Attend Lecture on Juvenile Delinquency

On September 21, 2018, five youth were escorted by F.A. Richardson and Transition Manager Brittney Ashley to the University of Miami, joining Professor Jan Sokol-Katz, Ph. D., Senior Lecturer, Director of Undergraduate Studies, and Faculty Advisor; in her Juvenile Delinquency class to initiate the Fall Semester group discussions. This was the first-ever Google Hangouts interactive group discussions, allowing five other youth back at Miami Youth Academy (MYA) to actively participate via Chromebooks with the assigned college students, under the guidance of education staff.

https://eaop.us
The Miami Beach Adult and Community Education Center (aka MBA) is the only adult education center which offers after-school care for the children who attend Fienberg-Fisher K-8 and Treasure Island Elementary. Ms. Chantal Osborne, Principal of MBA, hopes to engage every young learner in the importance of reading for study or pleasure. She is reading to young children at Fienberg-Fisher each week as a way of setting an example. These children see Ms. Osborne as a role model and one who genuinely cares about inspiring young minds.

Under the aegis of the FBI Miami Citizens Academy Association and the MBA, there is a “Reading is Fun Hour” each week at the Fienberg-Fisher K-8 School. The MBA is stressing the urgent need for engaging young readers and instilling a love of books in them. This week, Ms. Osborne, is reading about Bessie Coleman, an African-American woman who received recognition for numerous flying stunt competitions in her career as an aviator. Bessie dreamed of becoming a pilot, but her race, as well as her lack of funds, created obstacles that would have held back even the most goal-oriented individuals. To earn the money for flight school, Bessie worked as a manicurist until she had saved enough money; then, she was unable to attend a U.S. flight school because she was black. Never discouraged, Bessie enrolled in a flight school located in France.

The rest is history! Bessie became an internationally-recognized pilot who also lived to start an aviation school for black students. In her own words, “I would not take ‘no’ for an answer”. In terms of inspiring young readers, Ms. Osborne also will “not take ‘no’ for answer!”

www.miamibeachadult.com

M-DCPS Partners with Miami-Dade Beacon Council to Offer Vendor Workshop: Adult Education Program Awareness Effort

Miami-Dade County Public Schools, along with the Miami-Dade Beacon Council, provided a vendor workshop hosted by Miami Beach Adult Education Center on September 20, 2018. Thanks to the Miami-Dade Beacon Council for allowing the District an opportunity to discuss Adult and Technical Programs to community leaders, entrepreneurs, and other professionals. One Community, One Goal.

miamibeachadult.com
Instructor Receives 2018 Hispanic Heritage Award: Congratulations to Ana Garoz-Ojunian!

The Miami Beach Adult & Community Education Center (MBA) takes pleasure in announcing that one of our own, Dr. Ana Garoz-Ojunian, has been honored with the Hispanic Heritage Award for 2018. Since its inception in 1997, the City of Miami Beach, Hispanic Affairs Division, has honored a stellar Hispanic professional each year during Hispanic Heritage Month. Dr. Garoz-Ojunian is an adult education instructor at MBA, whose distinguished career is amplified by her commitment to students. As an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) teacher, Dr. Garoz-Ojunian is always looking for unique ways to reach new language learners.

Aviation Maintenance Technician Program Success: American Eagle Regional Airline Hires Aviation Graduates

Two recent graduates from the Airframe Maintenance Technician program at George T. Baker Aviation Technical College were recently hired by American Eagle. Jerry Pierre received his FAA Powerplant certificate on December 15, 2017 and his Airframe certificate on February 16, 2018. On the other hand, Icaro Menegon received his FAA Powerplant certificate on December 14, 2017 and his Airframe certificate on February 8, 2018. Both students have been working at American Eagle Regional Airline as Aviation Maintenance Technicians for approximately 12 months. Currently, these two graduates are earning $22 per hour, including a 401-K investment plan, medical benefits with dental, vision coverage, flexible spending, day care expense reimbursement and travel benefits.

Community Awareness Efforts: MBA Conducts Off-Campuses Open House Events

Miami Beach Adult & Community Education Center (MBA) visited branch sites for the 2017-2018 Open House Night. Thank you for allowing the chance to inform parents and prospective students of the opportunities and course offerings available to adult learners throughout the community. We take pride in our safe and welcoming environment!
South Dade Technical College Hosts Fall Job Fair: Students Meet, Greet and Interview with Potential Employers

On Wednesday, October 3, 2018, South Dade Technical College hosted its Fall Job Fair at the Skills Center Campus in Homestead. Students from both campuses had an opportunity to meet and greet over 20 potential employers from the South Dade Community. The Job Fair was open to the community in general, as well as former students. Many students took advantage of this amazing opportunity. In addition to receiving exposure, they had a chance to demonstrate their skills and employability to potential employers. Thanks to Mr. Carlos Manrique, Supervisor, Workforce Development, for his continued support in providing transportation for our students at the Homestead Campus. His support made it possible for these students to partake in this most invaluable experience. South Dade Technical College provides opportunities that are priceless for success of all students! The school is proud of its students, as many of those who interviewed at the Job Fair were already able to secure employment. It is without doubt, that these students are very excited about their accomplishments. The school’s motto this year is: We Don’t Do Average, We Do AWESOME!!! This is evident, as many students are placed in new employment which allows them to provide for themselves and their families.

Youth Engage In Awareness Efforts: Middle School Students Help Promote Red Ribbon Universal Prevention Campaign

As part of a Prevention Partnership Grant, seventh grade students from the Creating Community Change: Youth Engagement Program participated in a Youth Ambassador Training on September 18, 2018. These students will lead the efforts at their schools to promote the Informed Families Four Universal Prevention Campaigns: Family Day, Red Ribbon, Lock Your Meds and Safe Homes, Safe Parties.
Miami Beach Adult Education Center Recognizes Teacher of The Month: Congratulations Lesly Rosado; Teacher of The Month Award

During the month of October, Miami Beach Adult & Community Education Center (MBA) honored Ms. Lesly Rosado, an exemplar in the teaching of English to non-native speakers. Not only is Ms. Rosado bilingual, but she is also learning German and Italian. Her philosophy is to inspire each of her students to succeed and flourish. A graduate of the Miami International University of Art and Design, Ms. Rosado speaks from experience when she encourages new language learners to further their education and to explore a spectrum of skills. Her proudest professional moments occur when students pass their tests and proudly display their end-of-course certificates. Their passing grades are a tribute to Ms. Rosado’s dedication and boundless energy. After years of back-end fundraising for not-for-profits, Ms. Rosado realized she wanted to affect change on a personal level. When a position in teaching was available, she jumped at the present chance to create a change. Currently, she is seeking to obtain her teaching certificate and she is ready to inspire every student to succeed.
Joel De Leon reflects on his time in the automotive service technology program, stating that he didn’t know what to expect when initially going into it. Joel was fresh out of high school and didn’t have the slightest idea of what he wanted to do with his life yet. He remembers that at first, it was difficult for him to dedicate his time to something like this. Joel claims that he was never the studious type but recalls that after a short time of starting the program, he began to see changes in his attitude towards achieving his goals. Joel states that during this period, he found himself having fun in a classroom whilst learning, something that was not familiar to him. He found himself becoming more and more involved in the classroom and studying on his free time as well.

Joel gives credit to his instructor, Mr. Jorge Sanchez, and classmates. He recognizes them as a key point in achieving his goal of graduating-and earning nine certifications in the process-something he could have never imagined accomplishing at the beginning of his journey. Once he graduated, he began working a part-time position at a Cadillac dealership as an apprentice. He wanted something more to fill his free-time, and so he decided to go back into that same classroom where he learned everything that he was currently putting-into-play at his new job. He returned to the class as a volunteer helping students in any way that he could: from hands-on training to motivating the students to keep pushing forward. Joel says that the time he spent at Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College was an amazing experience for him as he got to help students in every way he could, all while brushing-up on what he had already learned-and even gathering some new information from helpful students as well. Shortly after, Joel applied for a full-time position as a mechanic at the Cadillac dealership where he was already working. Here, he was able to work towards achieving eight more certifications and complete several training courses offered by General Motors. Later, he applied for a position with Miami-Dade County as a Vehicle Maintenance Repairer where he worked on the county’s fleet vehicles. Joel is now working as a power systems technician: servicing and maintaining Miami-Dade County owned buildings and site generators. All in the span of four years. Joel is grateful that the Automotive Service Technology program allowed him the opportunity to grow not only as a mechanic, but as a person. He doubts he would have been able to gain the skills, knowledge, and experience in any other program. Joel would encourage anyone who is facing the same doubts as he once did, to give this class an honest chance before giving up. “If there is someone out there who wants to only learn about cars, says Joel, there are plenty of courses out there that can prepare you for just that; but if you are looking to learn about life, growing as an individual, helping others while also learning about vehicles and how to fix them, then this is definitely the program for you.”

www.miamilakes.edu
In March of 2018, Greg Jones, Adult Education & Technical College Division Recruiter, participated in a college fair hosted by Chambers High Charter School. Chambers High Charter, located in Homestead, is a tuition-free public charter school that “focuses on individualized learning” and allows students to earn a “state-recognized high school diploma, which is in a non-traditional school environment”. Representatives were in attendance, along with colleagues from Miami-Dade Technical Colleges and Statewide post-secondary institutions.

On October 4, 2018, Mr. Jones was welcomed back to Chambers High to conduct a presentation for one of their senior classes. Amongst other things, students learnt about various Career Technical Education (CTE) programs offered through Miami-Dade Technical Colleges. Noted, distinctions were made between technical colleges and traditional colleges/universities. The group also received information about salary and livable wage. The feedback received from the group and Ms. Phillips, Chambers High Academic Advisor, indicated that they “really enjoyed the informative presentation”.

Mr. Greg Jones, MS, CHES, Community Liaison Specialist is pictured here addressing a group about our CTE Programs.

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While working on a construction site in Kingston, Jamaica back in October 2013, Wayne Dawkins experienced his vision dim and blur. After being taken to a hospital, he was told that his glaucoma had caused him to have a stroke in both eyes. Despite undergoing multiple procedures, Wayne Dawkins could not regain his eyesight and became blind.

Mr. Dawkins was a hardworking and productive man since his childhood– building his construction company from the ground up and yet, due to his loss of eyesight, he was suddenly expected to live a static life. Though Mr. Dawkins lost his vision, he did not lose his courage, positivity, and passion for what he loved to do. Today, Wayne Dawkins is not only a praiseworthy artist, building sculptures that leave people in awe, but also an admirable mentor and coach in carpentry and construction. He has over 20 years of work experience in the field and has become an inspiring role model to students at AMIKids and NCCER construction classes.

Some of his success could be traced back to when he was a student at Ruben Dario Adult Center, where he took advantage of the M-DCPS’ Adult Education programs and the financial aid offered that paid for most of his school expenses in order to receive his certification in construction and continue doing what he loves. It did not matter that he was blind, as the Adult Center changed their testing and teaching methods in order to accommodate Mr. Dawkins’ needs. M-DCPS Adult Education offers flexible schedules-day and night- as well as a plethora of courses to help people succeed in the career of their choice. He is once again a student at Ruben Dario Adult Education Center preparing for his carpentry certification. He is a prime example, that it is never too late to aim for success or change your future. M-DCPS’ Adult Education program consists of thousands of students like Mr. Dawkins, who can testify to the worthiness of our programs.

www.coralparkadultedu.com

Student Uses Success to Shine His Light on Others: Adult Education Student Success

Automotive Service Technology Training Success Story: Graduate Secures Dream Job

After finishing his training at Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College, Jonathan Ramos was not only prepared for a starting position at any shop but for a career with which he could build his life around. The Automotive Service Technology program provided him with the in-depth knowledge and hands on practice he needed to succeed. Jonathan learned about the inner workings of gasoline cars from top to bottom, specifically from the most basic concepts to advanced engine performance. Even though the program did not prepare Jonathan to work on diesel engines, it provided him the skills to do his own research and to be able to work on any vehicle. This is definitely something Jonathan needs for his current job as a Miami-Dade Public Schools mechanic, where he works on everything from lawn mowers to buses. Jonathan’s only regret is that he did not enroll into the Automotive Service Technology program right after high school, which would have allowed him a head start on the career that he truly loves.

www.miamilakes.edu
Parents Receive Invaluable Information; Juvenile Justice School Open House — Instruction Addresses Academic, Emotional and Behavioral Needs

Brimming with southern hospitality, staff members purchased dinner items, so each parent would feel special at the late evening hour prior to seeing their youth during the facility’s visitation period. Over full plates and full bellies, teachers were able to calmly share about the learning environments they provide in their classroom, the differentiated instruction strategies offered to engage their child, and the opportunity for parents to set appointments with counselors and staff members to address matters which were unable to be shared during the Open House. To ensure no parent was left behind, counselors translated the informative presentation which was prepared for the evening as well as the one on one discussions with teachers. The Juvenile Justice Center School motto is “We Care.” Truly the motto was demonstrated through the efforts of each staff member leading up to the evening of Open House and their enthusiasm that night. It made all the difference in the world!

Holistic Programming Combined with Academics Transforms Students’ Future: Overtown Youth Center Helps Students Succeed

The guest speaker Officer Demezier, Commander for the Overtown area visited students at the Overtown Youth Center (OYC) to teach them about positive relationships. OYC has been in existence for over 13 years. The center provides holistic programming to help youth avoid falling victim to poor education, poverty and crime. The center is responsible for graduating 100% of its high school seniors since inception and continues to send a majority of its students to college.

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