



# RealNews 2021

Adult/Technical Colleges and Educational Opportunity and Access

NOVEMBER | Edition 4



## Opening of Schools Meeting: 'Emerging Stronger'



Leadership Team - Opening of Schools

Despite unprecedented challenges the pandemic conditions presented we are pleased to report this year's Opening of School Meeting for Adult/Technical Colleges, Division of Educational Opportunity, and Access (DEOA) region resulted in one of the best recorded Openings of Schools on record, as reported by the leadership team. Staff from both the DEOA and Adult Education divisions appeared delighted and enthusiastic to gather and celebrate this success in the same room during our Opening of Schools meeting, particularly in light of having been more than a full year in lockdown.

The event exceeded all expectations, fueling excitement, inspiring positive energy, exchanging words of wisdom, and exuding a genuine heartfelt welcome back spirit from all in attendance. Prizes to win were also awarded as part of the activities to excite and motivate participation.

The décor and overall environment of the venue itself added to and complemented the theme of the day (Emerging Stronger). The Lindsey Hopkins Technical College cafeteria never looked better, boasting a bright array of decorated tables and promotional posters and banners adorned in the patriotic red, white and blue colors of our American flag. The traditional cafeteria breakfast prepared by Simply A Perfect Party Caters also raised the bar in presentation, making it an even more scrumptious invitation to hungry eyes.

The theme of this year's Opening of Schools meeting, "Emerging Stronger" underscores our collective dedication to strengthening our student's educational opportunities in a face-to-face learning environment. Lastly, in our motivational video "Lessons from Geese: Line of One" could not be more appropriate in light of our current circumstances. The overall message from Mr. John D. Pace, Chief Operations Officer, Mr. Luis E. Diaz, Assistant Superintendent, and the rest of the School Operations team is one of hope, inspiration, unity, and perseverance as we Emerge Stronger this 2021-2022 school year.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Adult Education  
Marketing & Recruitment

George T. Baker Aviation  
Technical College

Lindsey Hopkins  
Technical College

Robert Morgan  
Educational Center  
& Technical College

South Dade  
Technical College



Opening of Schools Planning Committee

# #EMERGINGSTRONGERMDCPS







## Transportation Recruitment Initiative

careerinayear.com

### CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS



# Get A Career In A Year

305.558.8000  
Careerinayear.com



The District's Technical Colleges, in collaboration with the Department of Transportation launched a very special cooperative initiative in October to celebrate and extend appreciation to our School Bus Drivers and to showcase our Technical Education programs. Through this event, Technical Colleges had the opportunity to promote its programs while hosting a specially prepared BBQ meal catered by Simply a Perfect Touch. Music by DJ Kubano provided an upbeat tempo to the delight of those in attendance to create the perfect atmosphere. Altogether the initiative was well received and more importantly, provided the perfect stage to showcase our Career-in-a Year program options to our very own School Bus Drivers.



**CELEBRATING OUR SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS**

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1<sup>ST</sup> - FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

M-DCPS Technical College collaborates with the Department of Transportation to celebrate School Bus Drivers and showcase Career-in-a-year programs

**7 Technical Colleges Throughout Miami-Dade County**

**In-Demand Career Training**

**Graduate Debt FREE**

<p><b>NORTH TRANSPORTATION CENTER</b> 18150 NW 42 Ave Miami, FL 33064 Friday, October 1</p>	<p><b>SOUTHWEST TRANSPORTATION CENTER</b> 15501 SW 117 Ave Miami, FL 33177 Friday, October 22</p>	<p><b>NORTHWEST TRANSPORTATION CENTER</b> 8900 NW South River Dr Medley, FL 33166 Friday, November 19</p>
<p><b>SOUTH TRANSPORTATION CENTER</b> 660 SW 3 Ave Florida City, FL 33004 Friday, October 8</p>	<p><b>JOHN H. SCHEE TRANSPORTATION CENTER</b> 2755 NW 122 St Miami, FL 33167 Friday, November 5</p>	
<p><b>NORTHEAST TRANSPORTATION CENTER</b> 5901 NW 27 Ave Miami, FL 33142 Friday, October 15</p>	<p><b>CENTRAL WEST TRANSPORTATION CENTER</b> 13275 NW 6 St Miami, FL 33182 Friday, November 12</p>	





## Technical College Highlights Affordable Career Training Options

[robertmorgantech.net](http://robertmorgantech.net)



Automotive Service Technology student at Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College

District Analyst, Mr. Randy Holmes with School Operations, teamed up with Ms. Indira Jadoonandan, Curriculum Support Specialist, from the Marketing & Recruitment office, and two of the Assistant Principals Mr. Joseph Evans, Mr. Camilo Gutierrez at our treasured campus, RobertMorganEducationalCenterandTechnical College, “Home of the Pirates,” for a key networking opportunity. The main purpose of this gathering was to establish an acquaintance with Ms. Ali Echevarria, Team Manager for Community Action and Human Services, Miami-Dade County, and a few of her staff members.

Over the years, staff from the School District and Miami-Dade County have had an on-going relationship which has helped with facilitating training and educational services to the children of migrant workers in Homestead; however, the connection has been lost due to changes in staff, from both organizations and with the migrant workers now being relocated to the Redlands. Many of these individuals are apparently unaware of our very convenient and affordable training options where our students graduate with no loans to repay. The day’s activities unfolded with a small PowerPoint presentation highlighting some of our key training programs, financial aid, affordability options, including district financial aid, Federal Financial Aid, Veterans’ Educational Benefits and apprenticeship training. Following the presentation, the group was served up a scrumptious lunch, including a delectable desert, prepared by the Culinary instructors, Chef Myrna Betancourt and Pastry Chef Antonio Starvaggi. Next,

the visitors got to take a planned tour of the school and visited specific classrooms while having a chance to meet and speak with the instructors about some of the transportation and health related programs.

Instructors provided a brief introduction of their program and the career opportunities available, as well as job openings accessible to graduates. The introductions were specific to the Automotive programs starting with Honda PACT , Diesel Systems Technician, Automotive Collision Repair and a brief visit to the Nursing and Dental labs. Much emphasis was placed on successes of the programs and the hands-on portion of the trainings, particularly in the transportation cluster where each student can learn at their own pace, different levels and are able to accomplish their success, according to their own aspirations. Overall, the event was a success. This was indeed the perfect networking opportunity which in turn will create a passport for migrant teens in the Redlands to enroll in one of our 75+ career preparation programs where they may pursue postsecondary education training and graduate debt free while pursuing a career of their choice.



Mr. Frank Portuado, instructor, Mr. Randy Holmes, District Analyst, Ms. Ali Echevarria, Team Manager for Community Action and Human Services Miami-Dade County

## Dual-Enrolled Aviation Graduates – Class of 2021

[bakeraviationtechcollege.com](http://bakeraviationtechcollege.com)



Airframe and Powerplant Class of 2021, Mr. Ciro Hidalgo (Principal, left), Mr. James Rosa (Teacher, center), and Mr. Jean Saint-Phard (Assistant Principal, right), George T. Baker Aviation Technical College

Despite the challenges and hardships of the past year, a group of dual-enrolled students in the Aviation Maintenance Technician programs at George T. Baker Aviation Technical College triumphed over the odds and made significant strides in their academic and professional lives. These students applied their determination and persevered through a very new and different school year, completing projects, passing Federal Aviation Administration examinations, and ultimately obtaining Airframe and Powerplant licenses.

Of the class of 2021, 80% attained full-program completion. Of those students who completed, a total of 60% attained Airframe or Powerplant licensure. The attainment of an Airframe and Powerplant license

marks a critical milestone in their careers, opening doors to high wage jobs in the aviation industry. As the aviation industry rebounds and the pace of both cargo and passenger flights increases, these students will be positioned to enter the labor force in a period of high growth with many opportunities for advancement and relocation.

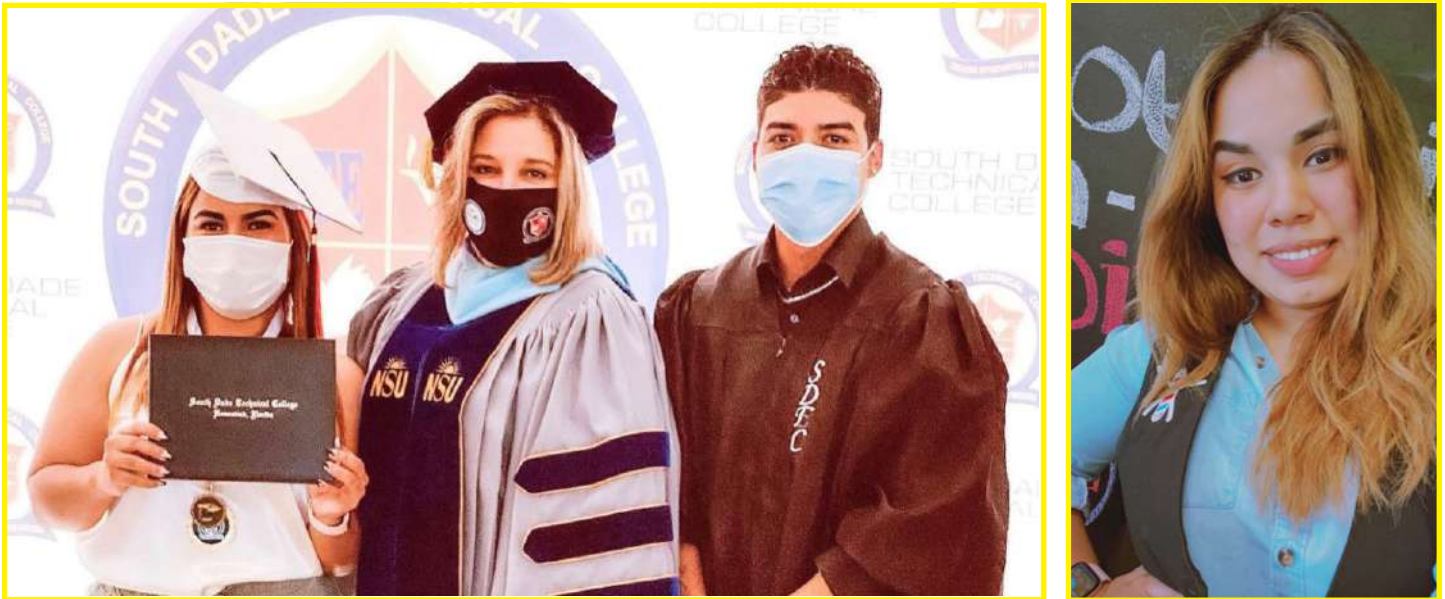
These students exemplify what it means to be a Baker graduate. Their determination, resourcefulness, and commitment to aviation are the embodiment of the professionalism and effort of their teachers and administrators, who have labored unending hours to ensure their success.





## Student Highlight – South Dade Technical College: Loren Fuentes

[southdadetech.edu](http://southdadetech.edu)



Ms. Lorena Fuentes, graduate of the Barbering program at South Dade Technical College

Ms. Loren Fuentes, a native of Honduras, was looking to complete her general studies since 2013; however, she placed her education on hold because she had just given birth to a son. After having her child, she was motivated to move to the United States where she and her son would have a chance at a better life and future.

After Loren and her son arrived in the United States in 2015, she began working hard so she can become an independent mother and continued her studies to find a steady career. She wanted to have more job opportunities open, and improving her English was the first step. She started to look for a school that could fulfill both her needs to learn the language and prepare for a career. A friend suggested that she register at South Dade Technical College, where they could assist with learning English and prepare for a career with living wages. Loren was glad she heeded their advice.

Loren started paving her way, taking the ESOL course to improve her English. Once she obtained her asylum approval, she became eligible to apply for the SAVES (Skills for Academic, Vocational, and English Studies) program. The SAVES program helped her pay for the rest of her studies in English and start a new course at the Career Center for Barbering. With hard work and

dedication, Loren completed the Barbering program and graduated in December 2020. She is now happily working at Miami Clippers Barber and is looking to continue her studies in nursing and obtain her GED®.

Loren highly recommends any eligible students take advantage of the benefits the SAVES program provides. SAVES helped her pay for her classes and course materials which led her to new career opportunities. She feels more confident now in supporting her son with a better future. Loren is very grateful for the support of her teachers, the school's staff, and the SAVES program that allowed her to pursue and achieve her goals.



## From Private Sector to Teaching Adult Education

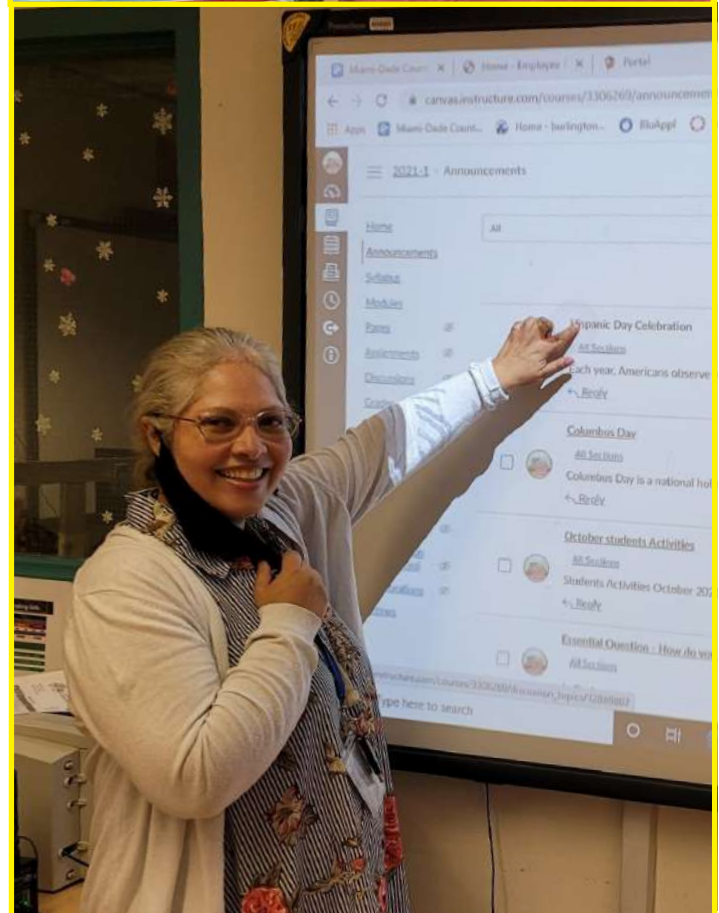
[lindseyhopkins.edu](http://lindseyhopkins.edu)



We all have those inspiring teachers who always come to mind throughout our lives...the ones that truly touched you, taught you, listened to you, validated you, and made you feel valuable and special every time you were around them. It is not the one phenomenal day, but the consistent nature of their passion for teaching that is evident daily. Their bad day is the exception. Their bad day makes one realize that even the great, are human too.

One of these exceptional teachers at Lindsey Hopkins Technical College is Diana Erira Cobos. Her love for students is palpable in her classroom, and in her relationship with them. The buy-in from students is visible by their keenness to participate in all kinds of learning activities that require a comfortable space. The Colombian native joined Lindsey Hopkins Technical College in Fall of 2015, and since then, has been able to support the growth and success of her students in different capacities.

Mrs. Cobos has an Advanced Degree in Project Management and Organization which has contributed to the progression of the learners by bringing her expertise from working in the private sector. This expertise allows her to prepare pupils for the unseen challenges that a new country and a new culture encompass. Diana's enthusiasm, individualized approach, and her investment is not only a huge benefit to students, but staff as well. Her dynamism and knowledge of FUTURE, Burlington, BluAppl, and CANVAS makes her a go-to person for all the Adult General Education (AGE) staff. Wherever she is, both students and staff alike flock to her because of her genuine eagerness to assist and encouraging demeanor.



Ms. Diana Erira Cobos, ESOL instructor at Lindsey Hopkins Technical College and her students.



## **THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA**

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