



APPRENTICESHIP

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INSIDER



New ALLIED HEALTH SCIENCE APPRENTICESHIPS

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2025 Apprenticeship Day Celebratory Signing Event

On April 28, 2025, Miami-Dade County Public Schools hosted its Apprenticeship Day Celebratory Signing Event, ahead of the official National Apprenticeship Day, as a powerful demonstration of the district's continued commitment to expanding career pathways through registered apprenticeships.

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M-DCPS Apprentices Shine at 2025 State SkillsUSA Championships

The 2025 Florida CareerEXPO & SkillsUSA State Championships, held April 29-30 at the Prime F. Osborn III Convention Center in Jacksonville, brought together thousands of students, educators, and industry leaders from across the state to celebrate career and technical education. Designed to spark curiosity and fuel future ambitions, the CareerEXPO invited elementary, middle, and high school students to explore hands-on career opportunities in construction and skilled trades. Through live demonstrations, interactive exhibits, and one-on-one interactions with

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M-DCPS
Your Best Choice!



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2025 Apprenticeship Day Celebratory Signing Event

Held in partnership with Chapman Partnership and CareerSource South Florida, the event brought together educators, employers, and community leaders to celebrate the formal signing of new apprenticeship agreements that will help connect students, adult learners, and Chapman clients to in-demand careers through paid, hands-on training and technical instruction.

This year's event marked the official launch of two new Registered Apprenticeship Programs in Medical Assisting and Pharmacy Technician—a significant milestone in expanding M-DCPS's footprint in the healthcare sector.

For the Medical Assistant Apprenticeship, the following industry partners signed on:

- Evolution MD – EVMD Holdings LLC
- Kidney & Hypertension Specialists of Miami P.A.
- Med One
- Beacon Hallandale OBGYN
- Serenity Holistic OBGYN
- BG Integrative Studio

For the Pharmacy Technician Apprenticeship, we welcomed:

- Med One
- Xcellent Pharmacy
- Prive Care RX

Each of these partners is helping shape the future workforce by providing real-world experience and mentorship to apprentices as they build careers in high-demand, high-impact roles.

M-DCPS continues to seek additional employers interested in becoming apprenticeship partners—both for these newly launched programs and for its growing list of apprenticeship offerings across industries such as automotive, diesel, construction, and logistics. These partnerships not only help build a skilled talent pipeline but also offer companies the opportunity to upskill their existing workforce at no cost through customized, accredited training.



More than a ceremony, the 2025 Apprenticeship Day Celebratory Signing Event was a celebration of progress, partnership, and the power of opportunity to change lives.

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M-DCPS Apprentices Shine at the 2025 State SkillsUSA Championships



Our apprentices brought the heat—and the skills—to the state stage!

industry professionals, students were immersed in real-world experiences that showcased what their futures could hold.

At the same time, the SkillsUSA Florida State Championships set the stage for some of the state's most talented career and technical education students to compete in high-stakes events that tested their knowledge, technical precision, and professionalism. Among the standout areas was the Diesel Technician competition, where Miami-Dade County Public Schools' apprenticeship participants truly made their mark.

Christopher Churchman, an apprentice with Kelly Tractor, earned an impressive 3rd place finish statewide, standing out among a competitive field of skilled technicians. Christopher's journey into the diesel field began just a year ago, driven by a strong passion for working on earth-moving equipment. With guidance and encouragement from his instructor, Mr. Frank Portuondo, he secured an apprenticeship at Kelly Tractor—an opportunity that has accelerated his growth and fueled his determination to master his craft.

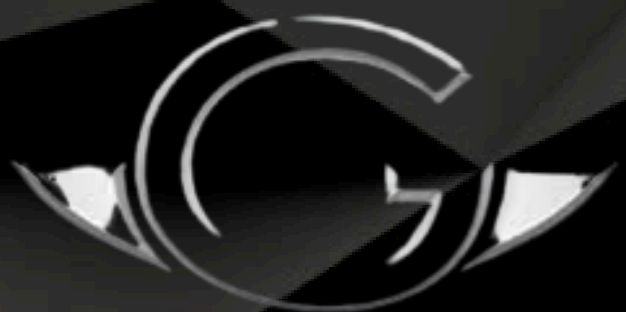
Also representing M-DCPS were Marco Martinez and Daniel Gasca, fellow apprentices who demonstrated exceptional technical ability and professionalism. Both finished within less than a point of Christopher's score—

a testament to the high level of preparation they received and the dedication they brought to the competition floor. While they may not have landed in the top three, their performances were equally impressive and reflective of the rigorous training that defines M-DCPS's apprenticeship programs.

Making it to the SkillsUSA Florida State Finals is a significant accomplishment—one that elevates each participant's profile and lays a strong foundation for future career success. These competitions mirror the real-world challenges students will face in the workforce, demanding advanced problem-solving, time management, technical execution, and poise under pressure. For Christopher, Marco, and Daniel, their participation not only strengthens their resumes, but also deepens their confidence, expands their professional networks, and positions them as rising stars in Florida's skilled trades sector.

These young professionals are a powerful reminder of what's possible when students are given access to high-quality training, industry mentorship, and meaningful on-the-job learning experiences. Their success underscores the value of registered apprenticeship programs as a pipeline to economic opportunity and long-term career growth. Through programs like these, M-DCPS continues to transform passion into purpose—and potential into lasting success. ■

Rooted in M-DCPS: Alumni-Owned Shop Builds a Legacy of Opportunity



GOLD WING MOTORS

In the world of workforce development, few stories reflect the long-term impact of career and technical education as powerfully as the journey of Alex Chomat, founder of Gold Wing Motors and proud graduate of Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

Alex's path began in the early 1990s when he enrolled in the Automotive Program at Robert Morgan Technical College, while still a student at Coral Park Senior High. He later completed his training at Southwest Senior High under the mentorship of longtime instructor Doug Andrew, graduating in 1992.

His career launched quickly—first at Max Grosso Chrysler and later as an apprentice at Bill Ussery Motors, where he earned his credentials as a Mercedes-Benz Certified Technician. But in 1989, Alex took a leap of faith and founded Gold Wing Motors, a shop specializing in Mercedes-Benz repairs that later expanded to include BMW and Mini Cooper services.

What makes Alex's story even more impactful is his commitment to giving back to the same system that shaped his career. Over the years, with Doug Andrew's continued support, he has hired numerous graduates

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Christopher Churchman

Driven to Succeed: An Apprentice's Journey

Christopher Churchman's career journey is a powerful testament to what's possible when passion meets opportunity. A 2021 graduate of Braddock Senior High School, Christopher earned a baseball and academic scholarship to Atlantis University in Miami, where he completed his Associate of Arts in Business Administration in 2023. But it was his love for working on vehicles, especially 4-wheel drive mud trucks, that ultimately shaped his career path.

In January 2024, Christopher began the Diesel Systems Technician program at Robert Morgan Technical College and was hired just three months later as a Registered Apprentice with Kelly Tractor. Since joining the team, he has rotated through the General Line Rental Shop and the specialized Component Shop, making impressive strides through Caterpillar's rigorous training regiment. His strong performance and work ethic recently earned him a spot in the prestigious Applied Failure Analysis Level 1 training at the Caterpillar Training Center, a rare honor for a first-year apprentice.

In addition to excelling on the job, Christopher made his mark at the 2025 SkillsUSA State Championships, where he earned 3rd place statewide in the Diesel Technician competition, showcasing his technical skills on a highly competitive platform.

Christopher's long-term goal is clear: he is determined to grow into a leadership role at Kelly Tractor and make a lasting impact in the construction equipment industry. With his academic foundation, technical training, and commitment to excellence, he's well on his way. ■



STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS



M-DCPS

Is Now Hiring Part-time Apprenticeship Instructors

*Inspire the next
generation of skilled
professionals!*

Miami-Dade County Public Schools is seeking passionate and experienced individuals to join our team as part-time apprenticeship instructors in the following fields:

- Automotive Service Technology
- Diesel Systems Technology
- Pharmacy Technician
- Medical Assistant

If you have industry experience and a desire to shape the future workforce, we want to hear from you!

Submit your resume to:

Maria D. Gutierrez, Executive Director
Email: mdgutierrez@dadeschools.net

*Join us in preparing students
for real-world success - one
apprentice at a time!*

Revving Up Success: ASE Test Prep Now Available for Automotive Service Technicians



Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) is proud to announce a new opportunity for current and aspiring automotive professionals: ASE (Automotive Service Excellence) Certification Test Prep classes will be offered across our technical colleges starting in the 2025–2026 school year.

These prep courses are designed for automotive service technicians who are ready to take the next step in their careers by earning nationally recognized ASE credentials—one of the most respected certifications in the automotive industry.

Why ASE Certification Matters:

- ASE credentials validate a technician's expertise and commitment to quality service.
- Certification is required for Miami-Dade and Broward County's Motor Vehicle Repair License.
- Certified professionals are more likely to earn higher wages, secure better job opportunities, and advance in their careers.
- Employers benefit from credibility, customer trust, and increased shop performance when hiring ASE-certified technicians.

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Revving Up Success: ASE Test Prep Now Available for Automotive Service Technicians

What the Prep Classes Include:

- Targeted instruction in each ASE test category, including A1-A9
- Practice exams and hands-on application of core concepts
- Test-taking strategies to boost confidence and success rates
- Courses taught by ASE-certified instructors with industry experience

Who Should Enroll:

- Working technicians looking to earn or renew ASE certifications
- Automotive students preparing for their first round of exams
- Industry partners seeking to upskill their current workforce

Building a Smarter Workforce:

By offering ASE Test Prep, M-DCPS continues its mission of aligning technical education with industry demands. Whether you're an employer looking to certify your team or a technician ready to stand out in a competitive field, these courses will give you the edge needed to succeed.

For more information or to reserve a seat, contact an Apprenticeship Team member.



MENTORSHIP Training Series

Building Stronger Mentors: Launching the M-DCPS Mentorship Training Series

In March, M-DCPS kicked off its new Mentorship Training Series with the first session, "Effective Communication Skills for Mentors." This initiative is designed to empower employer mentors with practical tools to guide and support apprentices at their job sites.

The session focused on key communication strategies—highlighting the power of active listening, clear feedback using the SBI Model (Situation-Behavior-Impact), and role-play activities that helped mentors practice real-world scenarios and refine their approach.

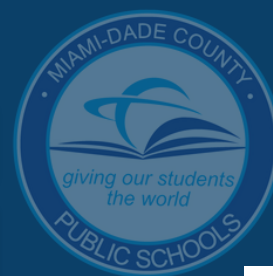
Key Takeaways for Mentors:

- Communication is the foundation of effective mentorship.
- Practice active listening, use clear messaging, and pay attention to non-verbal cues.
- Adapt your communication style to overcome workplace barriers and connect with your apprentice.

Up next: "Setting Expectations & Goals"—a session focused on building clarity and accountability in the mentor-apprentice relationship.

Interested in hosting a live mentor training at your location? Reach out to a member of our Apprenticeship Team—we'll bring the training to you.

Host a Live
Training Session
At Your Location



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Rooted in M-DCPS: Alumni-Owned Shop Builds a Legacy of Opportunity

In from M-DCPS automotive programs, providing them with real-world experience and long-term employment.

Today, Gold Wing Motors proudly employs four M-DCPS alumni:

- Edelvis Echevarria, Service Advisor (5 years)
- Christopher Haggerty, Shop Foreman (14 years)
- Arlam Azpiri, Technician (9 years)
- Dannel Marquez, the newest addition, who just started as an apprentice

“I’ve always valued the apprenticeship model because it allows us to train technicians our way, according to our standards.”

Each of these professionals began their careers through apprenticeship, validating what Alex has believed all along:

“I’ve always valued the apprenticeship model because it allows us to train technicians our way, according to our standards.”

Beyond employment, Alex views mentorship as a core responsibility of business ownership. He believes that creating an environment where young technicians can grow, make mistakes, and learn under the guidance of experienced professionals is key to building a resilient workforce. His shop isn’t just a place of business—it’s a training ground for excellence, professionalism, and career growth.

This year, Alex made it official—signing on as an M-DCPS Registered Apprenticeship Employer, furthering his commitment to workforce development and helping shape the next generation of skilled automotive technicians.

On the Horizon: Marine Service Technician Registered Apprenticeship Program



M-DCPS is proud to announce the upcoming launch of a new Marine Service Technician Registered Apprenticeship Program, set to open in the 2025–2026 school year, pending final approval from the Florida Department of Education.

This innovative program is being developed in direct response to South Florida’s thriving marine and boating industry, which continues to generate high demand for skilled service technicians. The apprenticeship will provide hands-on training in areas such as engine diagnostics, electrical systems, rigging, hydraulics, and fiberglass repair—equipping apprentices with the critical skills needed to succeed in the marine sector.

Apprentices will earn while they learn, gaining real-world experience alongside seasoned professionals at partnering marine employers. The Related Technical Instruction (RTI) will be aligned with state and industry standards, ensuring students graduate with the knowledge, certifications, and confidence to pursue long-term careers on the water.

Stay tuned for more updates as we move closer to setting sail on this exciting new pathway.





The Future of Work

AI in Apprenticeships: Powering the Future of Workforce Training

Preparing Today's Apprentices for a Smarter, Tech-Driven Tomorrow

As industries evolve, so must the way we prepare our workforce. Miami-Dade County Public Schools is proud to announce a bold step forward: the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across all of our apprenticeship programs beginning in the 2025–2026 school year.

This strategic move reflects our commitment to ensuring that every apprentice is equipped not just for today's workforce—but for tomorrow's.

Why AI Matters in Apprenticeships:

- AI is rapidly transforming industries from healthcare to automotive to logistics.
- Workers who understand how to leverage AI tools and data will be more productive, adaptable, and competitive.
- Embedding AI into apprenticeship training bridges the gap between education and the technological expectations of today's employers.

Looking Ahead:

Integrating AI into every apprenticeship program is more than a curriculum upgrade—it's a workforce transformation. For employers, this shift means access to job candidates who aren't just technically trained but are digitally fluent, forward-thinking, and ready to innovate from day one. Apprentices will arrive on the job already familiar with the tools and technologies shaping your industry—reducing onboarding time, improving productivity, and bringing fresh solutions to the table. As AI continues to reshape the future of work, M-DCPS is proud to lead the way in preparing a generation of skilled professionals who will help businesses thrive in an increasingly tech-driven world. ■

Contact your Apprenticeship Team Today: 305-558-8000!



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Federal and State Laws

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.

Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals 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 the disabled.

Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications.

The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons.

The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions.

Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee.

Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status.

Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information.

Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002 – no public school shall deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society).

***Veterans** are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment.*

In Addition:

School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517 - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of sex, race, color, 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)

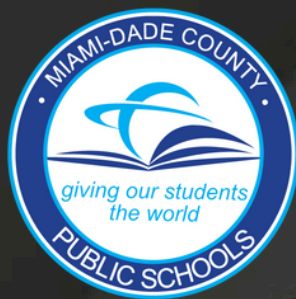
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