



REALNews

Office of Postsecondary Career and Technical Education

M-DCPS
YOUR BEST
CHOICE

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OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY CAREER
AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION



D.A. DORSEY TECHNICAL COLLEGE LAUNCHES NEW CDL CLASS B PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH MIAMI LAKES

dadorseytech.edu



D.A. Dorsey Technical College is proud to announce the launch of its brand-new Commercial Driver's License (CDL) Class B program. This is an exciting step forward in expanding career and technical education within Miami-Dade County Public Schools. To ensure a strong foundation for this new offering, D.A. Dorsey Technical College is partnering with the experienced team at Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College, home to a highly successful and fully enrolled CDL Class A program. Through this collaboration, D.A. Dorsey Technical College aims to bring high-quality training and real-world career opportunities to more students in the community.

One of the most appealing aspects of the program is its affordability, with the tuition cost being under \$400, making it an accessible option for individuals seeking a fast track into the high-demand field of transportation and logistics, specifically in commercial vehicle driving. Enrollment is currently open, and D.A. Dorsey Technical College is actively encouraging interested students to take advantage of this valuable, career-focused opportunity.

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NOW ENROLLING**

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**CDL IN JUST
10 WEEKS!**

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DRIVEN BY RESILIENCE: HOW ONE INDIVIDUAL ROSE TO SUCCESS

miamilakes.edu



After losing her job in 2016, single mother Jennifer found herself unhoused and separated from her children. Instead of giving up, she took a bold step by enrolling in the Automotive Service Technology program at Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College. With the support of her instructor, Mr. Sanchez, Jennifer not only gained hands-on technical skills, but also rediscovered her confidence and drive.

She graduated from Miami Lakes in 2018, continued her education at Broward College, and earned a degree in Automotive Service Management, all while working as a tire technician and living out of her car. Despite the challenges, Jennifer persevered. In 2020, she completed a competitive training program with Tesla and was offered a full-time position in Jacksonville. Taking the job meant making the most difficult decision of her life; moving away from her children, who remained in South Florida to finish high school. For two years, Jennifer made the long monthly drive to visit them while working full-time and adjusting to a new city where she had no family or friends.



She later joined Century Ambulance, where she rebuilt 10 ambulances and completed dozens of major engine and transmission repairs. By 2024, Jennifer had earned all eight Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications, a nationally recognized standard of excellence in automotive repair. That same year, she launched her own business, SOS Mobile Fleet Service LLC, a female-owned mobile repair company. In 2025, she was promoted to Fleet Manager at Century Ambulance's new West Palm Beach location.

Jennifer's journey highlights the life-changing power of career and technical education, and the unshakable determination of a woman who sacrificed, persevered, and rose above the odds. to build a life she could be proud of.



DRIVEN TO SUCCEED: JAVY CARDENAS NAMED STUDENT OF THE YEAR IN WARREN HENRY AUTOMOTIVE PROGRAM

miamilakes.edu



When Javy Cardenas first spoke with Braulio Trejo, instructor at the Warren Henry Automotive Service Training Program offered in South Dade, through Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College, he didn't know what to expect. In fact, he'll tell you he didn't even know the difference between metric and standard tools. However, what Javy lacked in experience, he more than made up for with determination. Today, that determination has earned him the prestigious title of Student of the Year.

Javy saw an opportunity to build a better future, learning there would be no tuition cost, he pursued the opportunity. "I just wanted to find a rewarding career," he said. What he found was not only a passion for automotive technology, but a newfound confidence that's transformed his life.

Since starting the program, Javy has earned three Automotive Service Excellence (ASE) certifications, a remarkable accomplishment for someone who once had zero experience in automotive service. Now, he doesn't just assist in diagnosing vehicle problems, Javy often helps experienced technicians troubleshoot issues, demonstrating a skill set and intuition that have quickly set him apart from his peers.



"I've learned so much," Javy shared. "Now, when something is not working on a car or anything mechanical, I don't hesitate to take it apart and figure it out. That's something I never thought I'd be able to do."

Javy's story is a shining example of what's possible when opportunity meets hard work. He's not just good with cars—he's become a confident, capable problem solver, and a true inspiration to his peers. The entire Warren Henry program and Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College community are proud to celebrate his achievements and can't wait to see what he accomplishes next.

LEROY DOUGLAS SHINES BRIGHT AS RUNNER-UP FOR 2026 FRANCISCO R. WALKER TEACHER OF THE YEAR AWARD

robertmorgantech.edu



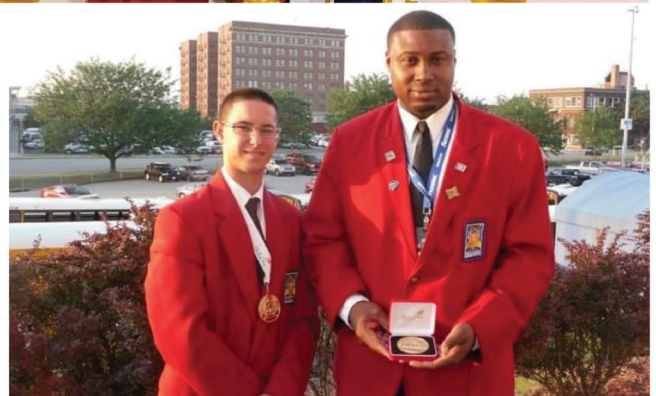
Join us in honoring Mr. Leroy Douglas, the Runner-Up for the 2026 Francisco R. Walker Teacher of the Year, representing the Office of Postsecondary, Career and Technical Education and Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College.

Mr. Douglas' journey is truly inspiring. Originally from Jamaica, he experienced the power of education through his family and moved to Miami for greater opportunities. After graduating from Homestead Senior High School, he began his Career and Technical Education (CTE) path as a share-time (Dual Enrollment) student in the Major Appliance and Refrigeration program at Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College. By age 17, he was working as a Student Worker, and soon became one of the youngest Maytag Service Managers in the region.

Currently, he leads the Major Appliance and Refrigeration Technician program for adults and teaches dual enrollment courses. As an advisor for SkillsUSA, he helps students develop skills for high-demand careers, achieving 72 state and 16 national medals in competitions.

Douglas goes beyond teaching; he mentors and inspires students, helping them navigate education and career paths. He believes in imparting technical knowledge and life skills to instill confidence in his students.

Douglas embodies the school's motto "Pirate Pride," and we celebrate his remarkable achievements. Congratulations Mr. Douglas! Your impact is profound!



YOANDRA IGLESIAS NAMED OPCTE'S ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF THE YEAR

miamispringsadulthoodedu.com



We are proud to celebrate Yoandra Iglesias, who was named Assistant Principal of the year by M-DCPS' Office of Postsecondary Career & Technical Education. This well-deserved honor recognizes her unwavering dedication, visionary leadership, and profound impact on our school community.

With 16 years of service in the district, Yoandra's journey, from substitute teacher to school administrator at Miami Springs Adult & Continuing Education Center, reflects her deep-rooted commitment to educational excellence and equity. Throughout her career, she has been a steadfast advocate for innovation, a catalyst for meaningful engagement, and a passionate believer in the transformative power of lifelong learning—especially for newcomers and adults with diverse abilities.

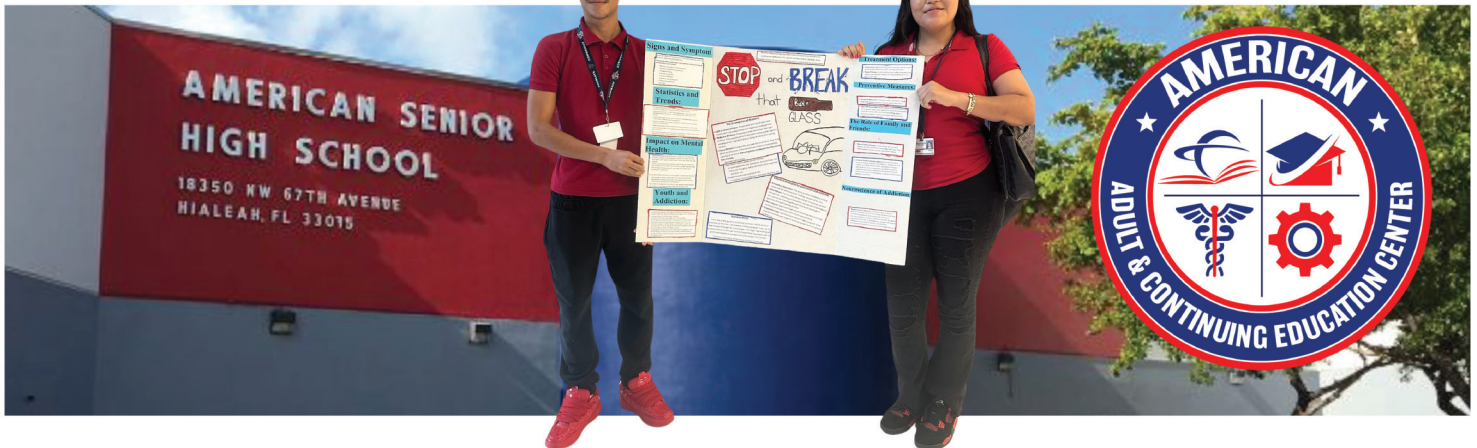
"My career has been driven by a passion to positively impact others through leadership. This recognition inspires me to push my boundaries and make meaningful contributions to the field of education. For me, it goes beyond academics it's about nurturing hearts, building character, and preparing each student to thrive in a world that needs their brilliance. We are not just shaping learners; we are cultivating leaders, dreamers, and changemakers," says Yoandra Iglesias.

We congratulate Yoandra on this outstanding achievement and thank her for her continued service, inspiration, and unwavering commitment to empowering students and colleagues alike.



A NEW PATH TO STUDENT SUCCESS AT AMERICAN ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER

americanadulthoodu.com



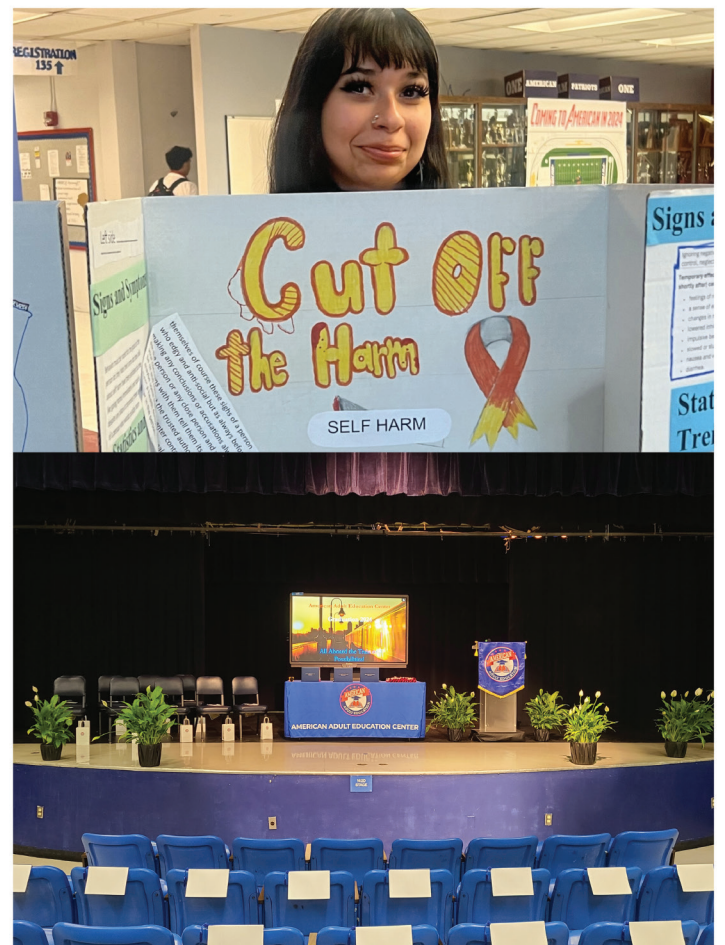
At American Adult & Continuing Education Center, education isn't one-size-fits-all. It's a personalized journey built for real lives and real goals. By reimagining traditional learning models, the center is empowering adult learners to thrive in ways that are flexible, relevant, and deeply impactful. One standout innovation is the Adult High School Completion program that utilizes the Blended Learning Model. This model allows a student to balance independent studies with collaborative work, while progressing at their own pace in managing work, family, and other responsibilities. It facilitates diverse learning styles and gives students the structure they need to perform.

What truly sets American Adult & Continuing Education Center apart is its bold embrace of Project-Based Learning (PBL). Launched this year, PBL brings education to life by connecting academic concepts to real-world issues. In one recent project, students tackled the topic of habit, diving into its effects on health, behavior, and society. Their research and data presented solutions for acquiring skills in critical thinking, communication, and teamwork.

This hands-on approach transforms learning from passive memorization into meaningful action. It not only aligns with academic standards but also prepares students for today's dynamic workforce and civic life.

"We're not just helping students earn diplomas, we're helping them reclaim their potential," said Principal Octavia Williams. "Project-Based Learning empowers our learners to think critically, solve real problems, and see themselves as capable change-makers in their communities."

By blending flexibility with relevance, American Adult & Continuing Education Center is creating a new path to success, one that values lived experience, nurtures curiosity, and equips learners for a brighter future.



DO YOU HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

Please ensure that the story is accompanied by high-resolution images that are clear and of good quality



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