



Celebrating Achievement Across Postsecondary Career and Technical Education

careerinayear.com



On July 28, 2026, the Office of Postsecondary Career and Technical Education celebrated its 4th Annual Technical College Commencement at Watsco Center, University of Miami honoring more than 775 graduates from programs across seven technical colleges.

From mastering technical skills to preparing for careers in the skilled trades, graduates marked an exciting new chapter and took confident steps toward their futures. Their success reflects the dedication of the students, faculty, staff, families, and communities who helped make this milestone possible.

The ceremonies continued across our Adult and Continuing Centers, where Success Management Academy students proudly earned their high school diplomas and Integrated Education and Training (IET) students celebrated completing programs that equip them with skills and pathways into the workforce.

From diplomas to new careers, every graduate represents a story of determination and possibility. Together, these accomplishments showcase the many pathways Postsecondary Career and Technical Education offers students, and the bright futures they are building through education, skills, and opportunity.



Built to Perform: ELITE Opening of Schools Mini-Session Launches 2026–2027 with Energy and Purpose

careerinayear.com



The 2026–2027 ELITE Opening of Schools Mini-Session brought together approximately 370 administrators and teachers for a day of professional learning, collaboration, and preparation for the new school year. Hosted by the Office of Postsecondary Career and Technical Education (OPCTE) Curriculum and Assessment Office, the event embraced the theme “Built to Perform,” highlighting a year focused on strengthening programs, enhancing instruction, and preparing students for success from Learning to Earning.

The energy was evident from the start as participants received individualized schedules and pink pom-poms, setting the tone for a day centered on teamwork and celebration. The Curriculum and Assessment team kicked off the event as the day’s “construction crew,” using the theme to represent the work of building strong programs, equipping educators with the right tools, and creating pathways to student success.

Throughout the day, Adult General Education (AGE) and Career and Technical Education (CTE) teachers and administrators participated in six professional development sessions featuring resources, strategies, and emerging practices they could bring back to their classrooms and programs. Vendors and educational publishers also contributed sessions and resources, while sponsoring breakfast and snacks for attendees.



The Mini-Session provided a valuable opportunity for educators to exchange ideas, explore new approaches, and strengthen their professional practice. The positive feedback from participants reflected the success of bringing educators together to learn, collaborate, and prepare for the year ahead. Built Together. Built to Perform.

The success of the Mini-Session was made possible through the collective efforts of the Curriculum and Assessment team, educators, administrators, presenters, vendors, publishers, and partners. The construction theme represented more than decorations and pink hard hats. Successful programs require a strong foundation, the right tools, a clear blueprint, and a team committed to building something meaningful.

As OPCTE begins the 2026–2027 school year, that message remains clear: We Build It. We Equip It. We Make It Perform.

The momentum continues with the next ELITE Conference on Tuesday, November 3, 2026, at the DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel Miami Airport & Convention Center.

The foundation has been laid. The crew is ready. Together, we are Built to Perform in 2026–2027!

BEAM Opens at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult & Continuing Education

careerinayear.com



On Monday, July 27, 2026, Hialeah-Miami Lakes Adult & Continuing Education celebrated the opening of BEAM, Bridges in Education for Adults with Multifaceted Abilities, a new hub dedicated to helping adult ESE students build confidence, develop career skills, and gain greater independence.

Located at Hialeah-Miami Lakes Senior High School, BEAM provides a supportive, hands-on environment where students can learn and practice skills that connect to real-world experiences. The dedicated space features a technology room, art room, mindfulness room, and independent living area, creating opportunities for students to explore their interests and develop practical skills.

Through BEAM, students will have opportunities to strengthen career readiness, build self-sufficiency, and develop the confidence they need to participate more fully in their homes, workplaces, and communities.

The opening of BEAM marks an important step in creating meaningful pathways for adult learners with multifaceted abilities, helping students turn their strengths into skills and their learning into greater independence.



AFSCME Employee of the Year: John Anderson for Postsecondary Career and Technical Education

lindseyhopkins.edu



Congratulations to Mr. John Anderson on being named the AFSCME Employee of the Year for Postsecondary Career and Technical Education.

Mr. Anderson proudly represented Lindsey Hopkins Technical College and was selected as the Miami-Dade County Public Schools AFSCME Employee of the Year, an outstanding achievement that reflects his dedication, professionalism, and commitment to excellence.

His hard work and positive impact make a difference each day, and this well-deserved recognition highlights Mr. Anderson's valuable contributions to our school community and Miami-Dade County School district. Please join us in congratulating Mr. Anderson on this remarkable honor.



Building Bridges to Success: Project BRIDGE Celebrates a Year of Growth

miamilakes.edu



Since its launch in April 2025, Project BRIDGE (Building Readiness for Independent Development, Growth & Employment) at Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College has experienced remarkable growth. Supported through a partnership with the Florida Center for Students with Unique Abilities (FCSUA), the program has expanded from two students enrolled in two Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs to 13 students participating in five career pathways: Electronic Systems Technology, HVAC/R, Master Automotive Service Technology, Medical Assisting, and Professional Culinary Arts and Hospitality.

Project BRIDGE is an inclusive postsecondary transition program that helps students with intellectual disabilities develop technical skills, workplace readiness, self-advocacy, and independence while learning alongside their peers in college-level CTE programs. Through individualized support, Person-Centered Planning, and strong partnerships with families and community organizations, students are empowered to pursue meaningful career and employment goals.

This year, students celebrated important milestones during the program's first CTE Signing Day and the Pathways to Success Celebration, which recognized Occupational Completion Point (OCP) achievements, industry credentials, and personal growth.

This July, Project BRIDGE will mark another significant achievement as seven students complete the program and transition to the next stage of their education and career journeys. Their success reflects the program's mission of building bridges between education, employment, and independence.



Student Success Story Featured on Actualidad Radio

americanadulthood.com



Adult student Yenny Pérez, an ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) student at American Adult and Continuing Education Center, was invited to share her inspiring educational journey during a live segment of the Yoli Cullo Show on Actualidad Radio (103.9 and 107.1 FM and 1040 AM) on February 3, 2026.

Joined by Dr. Belsay Henning, ESOL Instructor, and Mr. Camilo Gutierrez, Assistant Principal, Yenny spoke about how enrolling in ESOL classes opened new opportunities and inspired her to pursue an industry certification in Phlebotomy. Her story highlighted the transformative impact of adult education and the opportunities available to students seeking to improve their lives through education and career training.

Yenny concluded her testimony with a powerful message of hope and perseverance: "Nothing is impossible. Everything is possible."

The radio interview provided a valuable opportunity to promote the school's educational and career training programs while showcasing the life-changing impact of adult education and encouraging prospective students to pursue their own educational and career goals.



Welding Students and Instructor Showcase Talent Through Patriotic Sculpture Project

miamilakes.edu

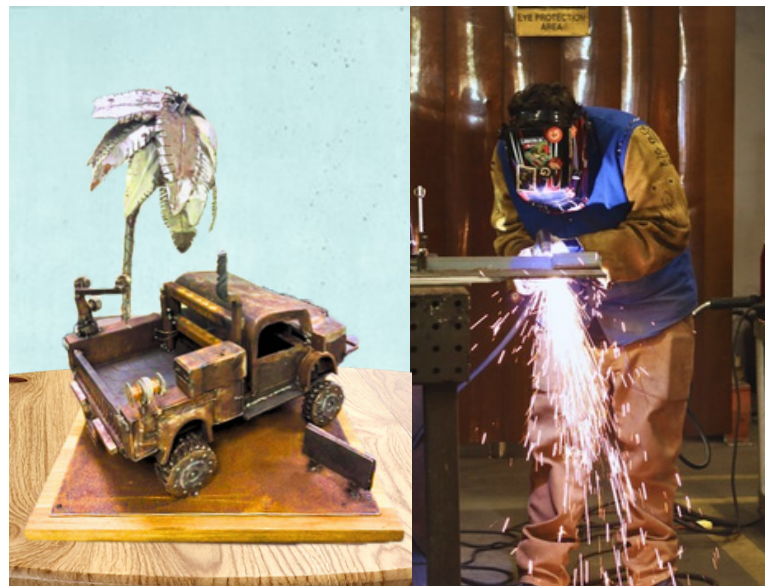


In honor of the United States' 250th Anniversary, welding instructor Mr. Oscar Guerrero and his students at Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College (MLEC&TC) created an impressive welding rig sculpture for an American Welding Society competition held in June 2026.

Constructed entirely from scrap metal and recycled materials found in the welding classroom, the project reflects the creativity, technical skills, and teamwork of the Welding Program students. The detailed display features a mobile welding rig beneath a South Florida palm tree and the college's iconic emblem, symbolizing the hardworking skilled trades professionals who have helped build America.

Under the guidance of Instructor Guerrero, his students transformed discarded materials into a unique piece of industrial art while showcasing the hands-on skills they have developed in the classroom. Although the MLEC&TC team did not receive the competition's top award, their work deserves recognition for its craftsmanship, originality, and tribute to the welding profession.

This remarkable project highlights the talent, dedication, and pride of both the instructor and students while demonstrating the important role skilled workers continue to play in our communities.



Riayvan's Journey to a Brighter Future

miamilakes.edu



Ms. Riayvan-Richea Deashea Isaac has always dreamed of working in the technology industry. Today, as she prepares to take her industry certification exam in Electronics Technology, her grandmother and aunt, the two people who have supported her every step of the way, could not be prouder of how far she has come.

After graduating from high school, Riayvan enrolled at Miami-Dade College, but she struggled to find the motivation to continue her studies. Looking for a fresh start, she accepted a custodial position at Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College. What began as a job soon became an opportunity to pursue her passion and build a future in a field that truly interested her.

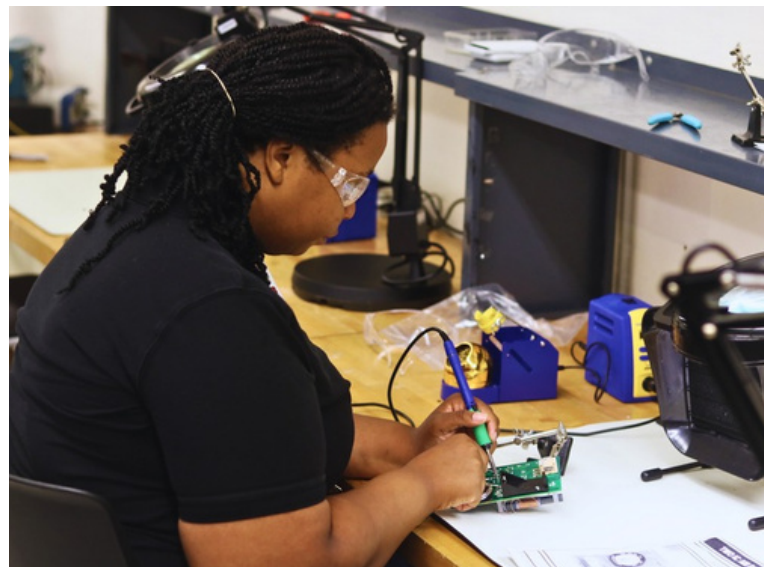
With encouragement from her colleagues and support through the Building Readiness for Independent Development, Growth, and Employment (BRIDGE) program and Federal Financial Aid, which helped cover the cost of her tuition and class materials, Riayvan enrolled in the 900-hour Electronics Systems Technology program in August 2025. Attending classes full time while balancing her responsibilities, she is expected to graduate in July 2026.

Through hard work, determination, and the guidance of her instructor, Ms. Laura Gutierrez, Riayvan successfully completed the program and is now preparing for her

industry certification exam as she pursues an entry-level position in the electronics field.

Riayvan's journey is a powerful reminder that new opportunities can change the course of a person's life. With perseverance, support, and a willingness to take a chance, she transformed uncertainty into purpose and is now building a brighter future for herself.

She encourages others who are considering career training to take the first step, saying, "Go ahead and give it a shot. You never know where it will take you."



From Student to Staff: Dachely's Journey of Determination and Success

sunsetadulthoodedu.com



When Dachely Figueredo arrived in the United States from Cuba in 2022, she knew that learning English would be the first step toward building a new life. Looking for a school close to home, she enrolled in the ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) program at Miami Sunset Adult & Continuing Education Center.

Although she began her studies knowing little to no English, Dachely's remained determined to succeed. Through hard work and perseverance, she steadily improved her language skills and gained the confidence to communicate effectively. Eager to continue learning, she also enrolled in the school's Microsoft Office course, recognizing it as an opportunity to develop valuable workplace skills.

Her dedication soon paid off. When a clerical assistant position became available in the school's registration office, Dachely applied and was hired. Today, she proudly serves the same school that helped her achieve her goals, proving that determination, education, and perseverance can open doors to new opportunities.

Dachely encourages others who are considering enrolling at Miami Sunset Adult & Continuing Education Center to take the first step. "Just do it," she says. "It is totally worth it. Take advantage of the opportunities the school has to offer. The staff and faculty are an amazing team who truly want to help you succeed."

Dachely's story is a testament to the life-changing impact of adult education and the opportunities that begin with a commitment to learning.





THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Ms. Mari Tere Rojas, Chair
Mrs. Monica Colucci, Vice Chair
Mr. Roberto J. Alfonso
Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall
Ms. Mary Blanco
Mr. Danny Espino
Mr. Joseph S. Geller
Ms. Luisa Santos

SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

Dr. Jose L. Dotres

DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Michael A. Lewis

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT

Mr. René Mantilla

ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Reginald J. Fox

DISTRICT DIRECTORS

Dr. Cadian Collman-Perez
Dr. Susana Mauri

M-DCPS does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political beliefs, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, social and family background, linguistic preference, pregnancy, citizenship status, FMLA or any other basis prohibited by law in its educational programs, services, activities, admissions or in its hiring and employment practices. Please refer to School Board Policies 1362, 1362.02, 3362, 3362.02, 4362, 4362.02, 5517 and 5517.02 for more information. For additional information about Title IX or any other discrimination/harassment concerns, contact the U.S. Department of Education Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights and/or: Executive Director/Title IX Coordinator, Office of Civil Rights Compliance, 155 NE 15 Street, Suite P-104E, Miami, Florida 33132; PH: 305-995-1580; E-mail: crc@dadeschools.net; Website: <http://hrcdadeschools.net/civilrights>. The District also provides equal access to its facilities, as required by the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act.

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.

E-mail us at: recruiting@dadeschools.net

