

SAVES Program

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Eldris Carames with SAVES

Estrella Garcia is a SAVES student with Miami Springs Adult and Community Education Center. She was born in Cuba and studied Special Education, where she earned her degree in 1980. She taught children with special needs for over 20 years while living in Cuba.

On August 8, 2012, Ms. Garcia immigrated to the United States. She immediately registered at Miami Springs Adult, with assistance from the SAVES program. She tested into high beginning. During 2013, she took each CASAS post-test and steadily moved through her ESOL progressions. She displayed great interest and initiative, set and completed her goals, and took advantage of all SAVES benefits available to her.

Ms. Garcia's main goal is to once again work as a special needs instructor, as she did in Cuba. She sees her language acquisition as her main barrier. However, she sees her persistence as her greatest asset in working towards her goals, which include earning a master's degree. She is well on her way: thanks to the SAVES program, one key program benefit was to have her degree from Cuba transcribed as a bachelor's degree by Josef Silny & Associates.

Presently, she has studied at the Hialeah Gardens campus for a little over a year, where she has reached the advanced level. Thanks to her diligence, she was offered an instructional position with the Miami Springs Adult A-SNAP program, where she presently works with special need students at United Cerebral Palsy of Miami. She says that she is right at home, working in her chosen field of expertise.

Ms. Garcia would like to thank the SAVES program and the staff at Miami Springs Adult and Community Education Center for all of their support, especially Principal Mike Veloso for the employment opportunity. She also thanks all of her supportive instructors, as well as SAVES site coordinator Walter Centeno, for their help and assistance.



Estrella Garcia

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