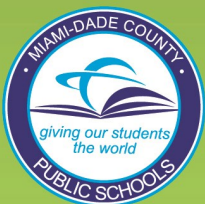


# SAVES Program

July 2018— First Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



## A Great Accomplishment

Juan A. Sosa is originally from Cienfuegos, Cuba. He graduated from La Universidad de Las Villas as an Electrical Engineer, in 1994. He started his career as a professor at Cienfuegos's University, soon after he completed a Master's Degree in Social Studies of Science and Technology. In 2013, Mr. Sosa found the way to emigrate to Spain because he could no longer stand his situation in Cuba.

As many other Cubans, Mr. Sosa lacked basic civil right; and even though he became a professional, his salary wasn't enough to cover his basic needs. Once in Spain, Mr. Sosa enrolled in 2015 at the University of Oviedo in a doctoral program and managed to bring his parents to Spain. Then the struggle hit him again, and he could not afford to pay for his studies and cover his parents needs without a salary. Clinging to the hope of a better future, he decided to move to the United States.

He arrived in the United States on May 23th, 2016, without his family, and as most refugees, he went to YOUTH COUP where he received information about the SAVES program. Mr. Sosa joined the SAVES

program on August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016, to improve his English skills and have better job opportunities. He started learning English in a Low Intermediate course. Thanks to his improvements in the English language, he managed to resume his dream of teaching; and in 2017, he was hired as a substitute teacher for Miami-Dade County Public Schools where he currently works as an elementary teacher.

Mr. Sosa is grateful to have a stable job. He still pays for his studies in Spain and helps his family every month. He is in the process of bringing his family here, where they will soon be reunited. Mr. Sosa would like to thank the Refugee Services program, particularly SAVES, for helping him learn the English language to be able to find a stable employment. The SAVES program wishes him the best in his endeavors.

