

# SAVES

SKILLS FOR ACADEMIC, VOCATIONAL, AND ENGLISH STUDIES



## PERSEVERANCE AND HARD WORK



Amidst political unrest in Venezuela, **Maria Ramos** and her husband were forced out of their homeland; arriving in the United States with a few dollars and a suitcase full of dreams. With little financial means in 1991, Ramos got to work. She and her husband each spent over 70 hours a week, working two jobs in order to make ends meet. Ten years later, with a little bit of faith and money saved up, Ramos' asylum petition was granted. She took her sister's advice and enrolled in ESOL and ABE classes to learn English through the SAVES program.

Taking it a step further, she graduated with honors from the Accounting Operations and Medical Billing and Coding programs.

Ramos was grateful to the SAVES program for all the benefits she received. In 2004, she decided to give a little retribution for all the assistance offered to her by volunteering to work at The English Center, with the SAVES program. Soon after, Ramos was hired as a SAVES Client Specialist where she worked for six years. She now holds a prestigious position as a SAVES District Representative in the SAVES district office, providing support to all 15 SAVES schools in Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

*"This country teaches us to be brave, to persevere and to work hard to achieve and enjoy our dreams." — RAMOS.*



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## RAISING TO NEW HEIGHTS



As a Cuban immigrant, **Lianet Lopez** arrived to the United States in 2014 with limited resources and knowledge of the English language. Lopez knew obstacles were ahead. She dreamt of earning an education in the U.S., but she was going to need help in order to reach her goal. Her determination led her to seek out guidance from the SAVES program at Miami Sunset Adult Education Center, where she had the opportunity to study English in the morning, and Web Development and Programming at night. After graduation, Lopez slowly rose up the ladder as a true professional and became a full-time employee as a Senior Programmer Analyst with Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

*"The SAVES program is great and has very good teachers that prepare and inspire the students to be good professionals," — LOPEZ.*



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