

# SAVES Program

August 2019— First Edition



## MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



### Norge Concepcion – Drafting Student

As a young child, Norge Concepcion enjoyed afternoon walks with his father in his hometown of Holguin Oriente, Cuba. His father was a construction manager who would take him along to oversee construction projects from commencement to completion. As he grew up, Norge realized he had an affinity for architecture. In 1993, he graduated with a degree in Architecture from Universidad de Oriente in Cuba.

Norge Concepcion arrived in the United States on December of 2016. His wife and children stayed behind in Cuba. Upon his arrival, Norge received information about the benefits of the SAVES program from Yojara Perez, an employment specialist for the Cuban American National Council. Norge felt motivated to learn the English language. He registered for classes at Miami Senior Adult Education Center.

During the month of July 2017 Norge experienced dizziness and had trouble walking. His limbs felt weak and his face was numb. He was confused and had trouble speaking. Additionally, he perceived a loss of balance along with blurred vision and a severe headache. It was a medical emergency: a stroke. He would not be able to attend English classes for approximately three months. He was disappointed but motivated to follow his doctor's orders. He relearned the motor skills he lost to regain independence through a stroke rehabilitation pro-

gram.

Norge's dedication and willingness to work improved his quality of life. After all, he wanted to continue striving towards what he wanted to achieve: to overcome the language barrier and enroll in the Drafting classes at Miami Senior Adult Education Center. Norge stays focused and uses his time wisely. Currently Norge Concepcion also attends General Contractor classes at Miami Dade College Wolfson Campus. He feels grateful to the SAVES program for their continued support with his educational goals.

