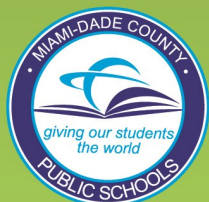


SAVES Program

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MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



“A blessing is never lost”

Ossemer Valcin was born in Haiti. He came to the United States in December 2017 to reunite with his family that was already here. Arriving in the U.S. was a new challenge for him. The only thing he thought that could help him live a better life here was to go to school. So, a friend informed him about Lindsey Hopkins Technical College.

He went to the school to register for English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL); however, his goal was not only to learn English, but to train for a technical diploma in Automotive. To register for a vocational program, he needed to take the Test for Adult Basic Education (TABE) to determine his basic skills' levels. He took the test, and based on his scores, he was placed in Adult Basic Education (ABE) Reading C and Language B; however, the only thing he wanted was to register for the Automotive Technology Program. Unfortunately, he could not register for the program because of his financial situation and his immigration status.

One day, while Mr. Valcin was in the advisor's office, he saw a SAVES flyer. The word “SAVES” sounds familiar because he worked for an international humanitarian organization called “SAVE the Children” in Haiti, where he served as a trainer and supervisor for primary and early childhood programs. He thought the “SAVE the Children” program and the SAVES program might be similar.

After speaking with a SAVES representative at the SAVES office, Mr. Valcin said that he realized that SAVES program was providing the same services as “SAVE The Children” program. He said what really made him happy was that in Haiti, he helped vulnerable children; while in the U.S., SAVES helped him by allowing him to go to school and studying Automotive Technology. He continued to say: “A blessing is never lost.” For him, joining the SAVES program was truly an amazing experience, since he arrived in this country.

Mr. Valcin is in the Automotive Technology program at Lindsey Technical College and is determined to complete the program by working extremely hard toward his goal. He plans to continue studying in the U.S. and thanks SAVES and its staff for giving him the opportunity to start his career.

