

SAVES Program

March 2023—First Edition



MIAMI DADE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Discovering the beauty of Culinary Arts with SAVES

On September 2020, life changed for a 16 - year-old Guatemalan young man, Ezequiel Cal, who became part of the Spanish GED program at Robert Morgan Educational Center and Technical College. After arriving from Guatemala without his family, Mr. Cal was brought to the school by Catholic Charities as he was an unaccompanied minor to inquire about the possibility to earn his high school diploma or its equivalent, as well as to learn English as a second language, so he could continue with his education.

Mr. Cal was referred to the SAVES office to see if he was eligible for the program. One's eligibility was confirmed the SAVES program offered their help to pay for his GED classes and books, but unfortunately Mr. Cal could not complete the GED program because as an unaccompanied minor VT he does not have any legal identification documents that allow him to do the GED exam, but this did not stop him from trying other opportunities, so he enrolled in the Auto Collision Vocational class since the GED diploma is not a requirement. After some weeks of attending the class, he realized that he did not have the vocation to work with cars for this reason he decided to try Culinary Arts.

Ezequiel is glad to be part of SAVES because the program paid for his classes and books, but most of all it gave him the opportunity to find out what he likes to do the most. We had to opportunity to

talk with Cal's culinary teachers, and they said his passion for what he is doing makes him the best student in the class. We hope to see him at the Robert Morgan Graduation ceremony next July and working in a restaurant soon.

