

## CONTRIBUTORS

Adult/Technical Colleges and Educational Opportunity and Access

Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College

Miami Beach Adult Education Center

Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College

Marketing Department

## Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College – Pirate Pride Sails to Distance Education:



► Above: Instructors Sharing Information Via Social Media With All Students. May is Mental Health Awareness Month

March 13, 2020, marked a day all of M-DCPS will remember. Students, faculty and staff left school that Friday afternoon and a new normal began – a normal being discovered each day. The Covid-19 Virus Pandemic altered how Robert Morgan Educational Center & Technical College (RMEC&C) did things, but not what they did.

RMEC&TC took action by following district procedures and also thinking outside the box to meet the needs of adult learners. The technical college was a designated site for food



► Above: Chef Starvaggi Films a Baking Demonstration from Home – Dedication and Delicious

distribution in the community and where students could pick up laptops for home usage.

From day and evening classes to being connected through Microsoft Teams, Zoom meetings and classes, professional Gmail accounts, Google Classrooms and Google Voice to, Remind, Quizlet, WhatsApp, Emails, digital curriculum and good old fashion phone calls just to name a few! Distance education is taking place from faculty's homes across Miami-Dade County but RMEC&TC's



► Above: A Very Talented Commercial Art Student Sketches Using Free a Program Called Autodesk Sketchbook From Home

► Above: Vocational Rehabilitation Logo – Communication and Collaboration

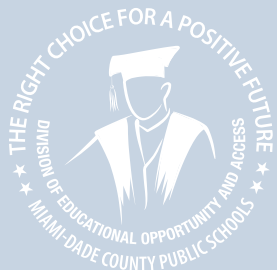


► Above: Principal, Mr. Kenneth L. Williams, Showing His Pirate Pride

teachers are closing the distance gap by reaching out to technical college students and teaching the whole adult learner – academics, emotional well-being, and planning for careers. Faculty demonstrations include how to use the new technology, technology as a part of the workforce and how step-by-step supporting each other is possible.

RMEC&TC administration and staff coordinated with the Area Supervisor of Vocational Rehabilitation to make a seamless transition to register new and returning students via ongoing communication and collaboration. Students, faculty and staff were reminded that May is Mental Health Awareness Month, and no one should suffer in silence with stress, anxiety or depression.

A heartfelt Pirate Pride THANK YOU to Mr. Kenneth L. Williams, Principal who took over the helm as Principal in November 2019.





## In Memory of William Julian Martinez: A Former Successful Graduate of Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College



► Above: A Young, Smiling William Julian Martinez



► Above: Mr. William Julian Martinez On One of His Vehicles, with His Instructor, Mr. Jorge Sanchez, and School Photo Badge Photos For The Automotive Service Technology Program At Miami Lakes Educational Center and Technical College

William Julian Martinez (May 27, 1998 - January 31, 2020) was a talented mechanic. We at Miami-Dade County Public Schools honor his memory now as a young man whose passion, work ethic and dedication was never compromised. He was a budding mechanic, due to his strong work ethic he was the epitome of success.

William joined the Automotive Service Technology Program at Miami Lakes Educational Center & Technical College in 2017.

His instructor, Mr. Jorge Sanchez, recalled William's character as humble, respectful, and responsible. He was fully committed to his trade and his family.

So taken was Mr. Sanchez by William's enthusiasm and desire to improve his skills as a technician, he helped William to secure all three of his work positions, each one progressing William to a higher pay grade.

By some of his classmates account, everything William drove was a

product of his own mechanical genius. He took pride in working on his own vehicles by himself, His two Mustangs and scooter were always in top working order. William always saw to that.

As a dedicated mechanic, William continued to improve his knowledge and understanding of his craft each and every day. His cheerful demeanor and patient disposition always made working with him a pleasure. You see William had that special gift that always brought out

the best in people. William earned three ASEs (Automotive Service Excellence) Certificates before his graduation in 2019. He was well on his way to becoming a master technician in his field.

Today we mourn the passing of William Martinez but also celebrate his life and his many accomplishments. William will be dearly missed.



<https://miamilakes.edu>

**STAY SAFE**  
**STAY POSITIVE**  
**STAY HOME!**

Miami Dade Technical Colleges  
MIAMI DADE TECHNICAL COLLEGES  
Division of South Dade County Public Schools

MiamiDadeTechnicalColleges.com 305-558-8000



## Adult Education Remote Online Registration: It as easy as 1, 2, 3. Just Click to Apply and Enroll

Necessity is the mother of invention! As you go online, adult student can now maneuver the adult education centers and technical colleges websites to partially register and pay for their classes online. The Application is available

in three different languages so that students and potential students can now access the system and navigate through the process seamlessly. None of this of course, was even thought possible prior to COVID-19.

Thanks to the quick thinking, planning and execution skills of several of our Adult Education Region staff members, of all levels, who helped to make this a possibility.



Effective May 13th, 2020, New Students Can Now Register Online for our Remote Learning Trimester, Commencing May 18th 2020.

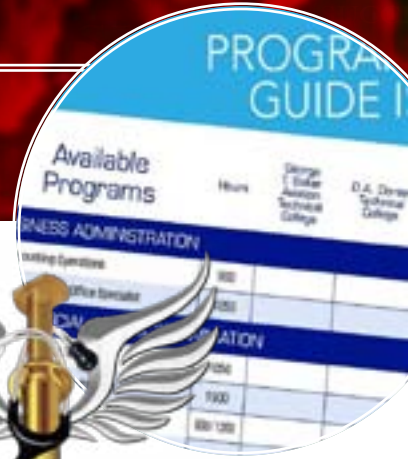
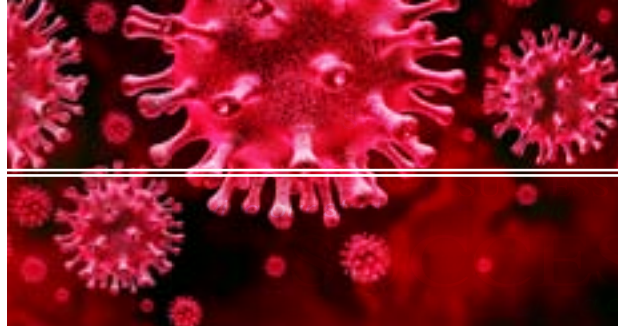


Mobile Device Distribution

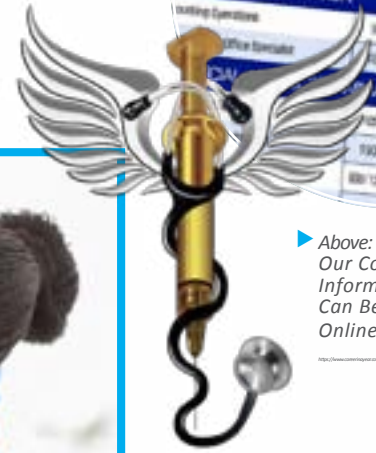


<https://www.adulteducationworks.com>





## COVID 19 Thriving Programs: Programs That Are In Demand



▶ Above:  
Our Course  
Information Matrix  
Can Be Accessed  
Online

<https://www.careerinsight.com/education/health-care/health-care-careers>



▶ Above: According To The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), Medical Related Jobs Will Be in The Highest Demand Between Now And 2022

Based on the need, COVID has presented, it is logical to invest in credentialing programs that anticipate and respond to future public health crises. These programs include Dental Assisting, EKG Aide, Home Health Aide, Medical Assisting, Medical Coder/Biller, Patient Care Assistant, Patient Care Technician,

Pharmacy Technician, Phlebotomy Aide, Practical Nursing, Surgical Technology, Central Sterile Processing and Emergency Medical Responder. District and school site staff have been working tirelessly to have enrollment policies, academic programming, and support services that cater to what adult learners need

and employers expect. Our English and GED® Programs have also been highly requested. This recent demand provides our learner an opportunity to embark on self-improvement ventures during these uncertain times.



<https://www.careerinsight.com/programs/>



# HEALTHCARE OCCUPATIONS NOW EARN!

• DENTAL ASSISTING • EKG AIDE • HOME HEALTH AIDE • MEDICAL ASSISTING • MEDICAL CODER/BILLER • PATIENT CARE ASSISTANT • PHARMACY TECHNICIAN • PHLEBOTOMY AIDE AND MORE...  
A REWARDING CAREER AWAITS YOU IN AN INDUSTRY FULL OF FUN AND EXCITEMENT

- TEACHING THE BASICS
- UPGRADING SKILLS
- IMPROVING PERFORMANCE
- PROVIDING NEW CAREER OPTIONS

**LOG ONLINE TO SEE YOUR  
CAREER POSSIBILITIES!**





## Blackman Hypes “Career In a Year:” Miami-Dade Tech Boosts Enrollment with Rap



Excerpt from: Juliana Accioly  
Miami Times Contributor May 20,  
2020



▶ Front Row-Center: The Programs Blackman Helps Promote Range From Aviation to Barbering to Web Development and Digital Design

Community activist Anthony “King” Blackman is using hip hop songs and videos to educate high school students on practical career choices.

Since last year, the founder of Blackman Music Group record label has shared his personal story to promote Miami-Dade Technical Colleges' Career In A Year programs, which provide marketable skills on a fast-track. Blackman says hip-hop music helps him reach young people with the language they speak.

"I use music to shine a positive light on the subject and everything I talk about I know from firsthand experience," said 44-year-old Blackman.

An Alabama native, Blackman dropped out of school in the seventh grade, was involved in drugs and gangs and spent five years in prison. He was a 25-year-old man with no job-related skills when he was finally released.

A sales job in Miami provided him

with a chance to make ends meet and make a clean break with his tumultuous past.

In 2001, Blackman surrendered his life to Jesus Christ in a Hollywood, Florida hotel room. With newfound faith and music interest, he recorded a gospel album and toured historical Black colleges and universities in the South with the Black Collegiate Network.

Blackman earned his GED in 2004, graduated from Lindsey Hopkins Technical College and in 2018 founded his own record label, BMGI. He then enrolled in an audio engineer certification program at SAE Institute Miami. Upon completion, he met Luis Diaz, Assistant Superintendent of Miami Dade County Public Schools and offered to speak about his experience in high schools. Within months, the project led to a contract aimed at increasing the enrollment at the seven campuses of Miami

Dade Technical College.

The programs Blackman helps promote range from aviation to barbering to web development and digital design. Many do not require a high school diploma or a GED to enter, but high school credentials are necessary in order to qualify for Federal financial aid.

"Students learn by application, these are hand-on trades that you learn as you go and can use immediately to start making money," he noted. "The reality is that in Miami-Dade a black kid with a new four-year degree will start out with a \$36,000 annual salary and they can't even live with that. With a vocational program they have a career in less time, earn more, and have no debt."

Blackman was one of nine men who participated in the Circle of Brotherhood's 22-day hunger strike last year. He is an executive member of the community-based organization and is dedicated to stopping gun violence and creating economic prosperity for the Black community.

While Blackman uses a music video portraying the Peacemakers as an introduction to his own talks, students also benefit from guest speakers like Ed Haynes, a member of the Brotherhood and owner of Haynes Security, Inc. which serves a high-profile clientele including Miami-Dade County Public Schools and Metrorail.

"The project's musical approach hooks the kids and transforms a stuffy subject into something hip and exciting," said Haynes who adds that

he runs a multi-million dollar company and never earned a college degree, so there's no recipe to follow.

"Instead of going to college and having thousands of dollars worth of debt, they learn that they can go into a technical trade and start generating revenue immediately."

In addition to his talks, Blackman has also produced commercials in English and Spanish for the Career-in-a-Year initiative, which are playing on local radio stations and are accessible on social media. A Creole version is also in the works.

Blackman said his project has resulted in a soaring social media engagement and increased number of inquiries.

"I see youth all the time when I'm out and about who remember me from my presentation and hunger strike. They see me as a role model," he said. "When I share my childhood, a lot of students ask me for solutions and through my community relationship I'm able to point them to the services that they need."

"As a black man, my ultimate goal is to help our communities become a decent place to live."

For more information Miami Dade Technical College programs call 305-558-8000 or visit [miamidadetechnicalcolleges.com](http://miamidadetechnicalcolleges.com). Blackman Music Group is on Facebook and Instagram @blackmanmusicgroup



## A SAVES Success Story! “Gedthson Frantz Louis’ New Found Purpose”



▶ Above: Family is Everything, Gedthson Frantz Louis Tributes His Drive And Work Ethic to Family, Especially His Mother, For Her Support, In His Quest For Pursuing Higher Education Achievements



▶ Above: North Miami Beach Adult Center Located at 1247 NE 167 Street, Miami, FL 33162. The major program areas are, Adult Basic Education, Adult High School, GED® Preparation, and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)

Mr. Gedthson Frantz Louis migrated to America from Haiti in 2019. Prior to his arrival to the USA, he had already earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting science from the Université UNIKA located in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where he worked as an accountant and a procurement specialist. Due to Haiti’s turbulent political and economic conditions, combined with persecution and fear of assassination, Mr. Louis fled to Miami.

Shortly after he arrived, Mr. Louis immediately enrolled in classes for English for Speakers of Other

Languages (ESOL) at North Miami Beach Adult, his nearest adult education center. There, he quickly improved his English language skills enabling him to take advantage of our educational programs and integrate into the American culture.

Currently, Gedthson is considering taking up studies in a health related field at Lindsey Hopkins Technical College to obtain the credentials for a job in healthcare.

“I make a great effort to reach a certain level of education and improve my life in my new country. But right

now, I have to keep moving forward to achieve my goals. My mother was very supportive and did her best to help me complete my education. I want to thank her and also help her. That is the reason why I am truly focused and trying to do my best.”

Gedthson is extremely excited because he recently received his work permit. His goal is to get a part-time job and to continue his education with the ultimate goal of obtaining an Associates in Arts degree.

He is eternally grateful for the support he received from the

mentorship of the educators in the Skills for Academic, Vocational, and English Studies (SAVES) program that helped –and continue to help him– reach his educational and professional goals.

Mr. Gedthson has left a turbulent environment and utilized education to move into his dream profession. He is a true model for others coming from similar backgrounds by showing them how to take the initiative, make decisions, and integrate into American society.

# OPEN ENROLLMENT!

Avrg. Range - \$39,660\*\*

\* Complete with a minimum of 1,000 educational hours  
\*\*Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor

## Become a Welding Technician\*!

MiamiDadeTechnicalColleges.com 305-558-8000



WELCOME TO  
SUCCEED

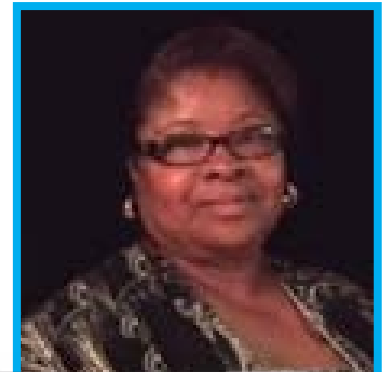
## Adult Education's Office Manager Queen Retires: Adette Benjamin Takes Time to Smell the Roses



▶ Above: Adette Benjamin Smelling Her Flowers Presented to Her



▶ Above: From Left To Right Ms. Carol Lisbey, Office Manager, School Operations, Ms. Digna Valle Retired Executive Secretary, Adult Education, Ms. Carrie Mickey, Retired Assistant Superintendent, Adult Education, Adette Benjamin, Retired Office Manager and Isabelle Romeus, Fiscal Specialist Title I Project



Adette Benjamin, like the flower that she is, germinated in St. Kitts, referred to as, an island country in the West Indies located in the Leeward Islands, Lesser Antilles. She was originally hired as a work experience student from the Miami Skills Center where she was allowed to blossom. Her growth at The Miami Skills Center, was designed

to focus on attaining professional business skills and typing skills, while she pursued and obtained her GED®. This school site eventually closed down in the early 2000s. In 1985, Adette was transplanted to the Division of Adult Education on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor where she remained for 34 years. Adette has flourished in many roles on the 8th floor. She built a life-time

career and has been serving under many Assistant Superintendents: Mr. Eddie Pierson, Mr. Rogelio 'Roger' Cuevas, Mr. Joseph Mathos, Ms. Carrie Mickey, Ms. Carol Renick, Mr. Nelson Perez, Mr. Robert 'Bobby' Gornto and Mr. Luis Diaz. She is known for unfolding her scrumptious colorful island meals that she made, and using her organizational skills, she harvested for the menu for our yearly district holiday staff parties.

Adette grew quite a garden here at M-DCPS. She sprouted long lasting friendships like flowers, nurtured many and in turn they will flourish. Her generous and spunky spirit will be sorely missed by all those at M-DCPS who got to know her and became fond of her over the years.



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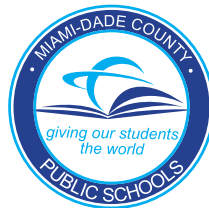
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The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adheres to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment and educational programs/activities and strives affirmatively to provide equal opportunity for all as required by: Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, or national origin. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 - prohibits discrimination on the basis of gender. Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967 (ADEA) as amended - prohibits discrimination on the basis of age with respect to individuals who are at least 40. The Equal Pay Act of 1963 as amended - prohibits gender discrimination in payment of wages to women and men performing substantially equal work in the same establishment. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 - prohibits discrimination against the disabled. Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA) - prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in employment, public service, public accommodations and telecommunications. The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993 (FMLA) - requires covered employers to provide up to 12 weeks of unpaid, job-protected leave to "eligible" employees for certain family and medical reasons. The Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978 - prohibits discrimination in employment on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or related medical conditions. Florida Educational Equity Act (FEEA) - prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, gender, national origin, marital status, or handicap against a student or employee. Florida Civil Rights Act of 1992 - secures for all individuals within the state freedom from discrimination because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, handicap, or marital status. Title II of the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (GINA) - prohibits discrimination against employees or applicants because of genetic information. Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act of 2002 - no public school shall deny equal access to, or a fair opportunity for groups to meet on school premises or in school facilities before or after school hours, or discriminate against any group officially affiliated with Boy Scouts of America or any other youth or community group listed in Title 36 (as a patriotic society).

Veterans are provided re-employment rights in accordance with P.L. 93-508 (Federal Law) and Section 295.07 (Florida Statutes), which stipulate categorical preferences for employment. In Addition: School Board Policies 1362, 3362, 4362, and 5517 - Prohibit harassment and/or discrimination against students, employees, or applicants on the basis of sex, race, color, ethnic or national origin, religion, marital status, disability, genetic information, age, political