



JOSE IZQUIERDO – Received GED 2014

When you think of success stories no other person comes to mind like that of Jose Izquierdo. Mr. Izquierdo has been involved in the criminal justice system since he was 18 years old. Due to his learning challenges and language barrier, he did not successfully complete high school. The highest grade that he completed was 11th grade. During the facility's risk assessment it was identified that he had a learning disability and had been told throughout his school years that he would never be able to obtain a GED or high school diploma. Izquierdo entered into the GED program in October 10, 2013. His initial TABE was taken 10/17/2013. He received 7.7 in Reading, 5.0 in Math C, 9.8 in Math A, and 5.2 in Language. He retested and made some significant gains in TABE. This time he scored 9.4 in Reading, 5.4 in Math C, 9.8 in Math A and 7.0 in Language. The increase in his scores served as a huge motivator for him to finally get his GED. Ms. Leger set a goal for him to sit for the upcoming GED test scheduled for December 2013. After a lot of hard work and determination and against all odds, Mr. Izquierdo passed the GED on February 6, 2014 with a total score of 2310 (410, 470, 500, 470, 460). This was such an accomplishment for him and his mother who proudly watched as he was presented with his High School Diploma. His mother could not stop thanking Ms. Leger enough for the hard work and dedication that helped her son realize a lifelong dream. As if thanking her in person was not enough, she kindly sent a letter to the attention of the Assistant Warden singing praises for Ms. Leger. This letter served as a reminder of- why we do - what we do as educators. In the words of Nelson Mandela, " Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" or in this case the world of one individual.



KATIA MARQUES – Received GED 2012

Katia is a vibrant young Haitian woman who was at our school studying for her GED in 2012. As a single mother of 2 children she had her hands full even without trying to study every day for the GED. The GED was particularly difficult since it was not in her native language. After almost a year of commitment to her goal, she finally passed the GED. She then went to a private post-secondary school where she completed the Medical Billing and Code program. Today she is working in her field for a medical billing company. She says receiving her GED made her have more power over her life to pursue a better career. It also enables her to more meaningfully encourage her children with their educational goals. One day she hopes to have her own business in the medical billing field.

MICHELET ALBERT – Received GED 1999

Michelet is a Haitian man who enjoys much success today due to his determination and hard work. Once Michelet got to the United States, he thought he had arrived !! He quickly learned that he had just begun a very long and arduous journey which included a lot of studying. He enrolled in the Adult Education Center where he studied from 1998-1999. With his focused attention to his goal of becoming fluent in English and getting his GED, he was able to accomplish those goals in one year – a very rare occurrence. As a result, he continued his education at Palm Beach Community College, where he graduated with his AA in 2003. But he was not done, he moved on to Florida Atlantic University, where he received his BA in Business & Accounting in 2005. He is currently working at Palm Beach Toyota in the Sales Department, where he has been for 8 years. Michelet is a stellar example to the Haitian community in Palm Beach County. Understanding that his accomplishments were a gift, he gives back by helping the Haitian community whenever possible. He has two children, one in middle school and the

other in pre-school. He reflected that the knowledge and skills that he gained from being at the Adult Education Center have become the most pivotal point of his life. He clearly believes that the AEC had a huge impact on why he is where he is today.