



**2009 NDPN Crystal Star
Awards of Excellence:
Students with Disabilities
Program Winner**



**BARBARA GOLEMAN SENIOR HIGH, M-DCPS:
RESIDENTIAL ELECTRICAL WIRING
PROGRAM**

Accepted by:

Dr. Alex Azan

**Director, Residential
Electrical Wiring
Program**



Program Overview

Since 2006, Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) has collaborated with the National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities (NDPC-SD) to improve school completion rates and outcomes for students with disabilities. The Center has trained 24 high schools and 22 schools implementing School-wide Positive Behavior Support on evidence-based dropout prevention interventions, practices, and programs. The Center also assists M-DCPS in developing strategies and interventions to ensure performance targets are met as reported in SPP/APRs, for Part B Indicator 2 (Dropout). As an NDPC-SD model demonstration site, the district continues to leverage their resources and improve the implementation of their evidence-based practices to reduce dropout rates for students with disabilities as evidenced by the Residential Electrical Wiring Program at Barbara Goleman Senior High.

The Residential Electrical Wiring Program for students with emotional/behavioral disabilities (EBD) was created in 2002 at Barbara Goleman Senior High, M-DCPS. This program is the result of a contractual agreement between M-DCPS and Florida International University (FIU). FIU provides an instructor to deliver the curriculum while students participate in over 360 hours of quality, individualized



[The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities](#), funded by the [U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Special Education](#), works in collaboration with [Education Development Center, Inc. \(EDC\)](#) and the [National Dropout Prevention Center/Network](#). The opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views or policies of the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Program, nor does mention of other organizations imply endorsement by those organizations or the U.S. Government.

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instructional time utilizing a curriculum infused with hands-on pedagogy. The program's primary goal is to address the needs of targeted students with severe emotional problems while preparing students with the tools needed to achieve the requirements for graduation and employability skills in a specialized field. Program objectives are: to improve student attendance; improve student self esteem; improve student graduation rate; and reduce the dropout rate for students with EBD.

Lessons Learned



NDPC-SD's Dr. Covington Smith presenting the award to Dr. Azan

Problem behaviors coupled with academic difficulties or prior academic failure are key risk factors predictive of school dropout. Exclusion from class due to disciplinary action leads to lost instructional time and increased academic difficulties. Given the high number of EBD students who leave school as a result of deficits in prosocial behaviors that often result in excessive suspensions, the district's focus on dropout prevention has proven beneficial in improving the quality of in-school experiences and increasing the positive post-school outcomes for youth with EBD. These lessons learned have been and continue to be supported by the Residential Electrical Wiring Program's outcomes:

- Increased student attendance;
- Increased student grade point averages;

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Questions, comments or suggestions?

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- Increased the number of students passing the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test;
- Increased the amount of time students spend in inclusive settings; and,
- Increased positive post-school outcomes for students (e.g. entering community colleges, vocational schools, and securing employment).

**Questions? Email Sandra Covington Smith,
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[The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs \(OSEP\)](#) is committed to positive results for children with disabilities. [The National Dropout Prevention Center for Students with Disabilities](#) is an [IDEAs that Work](#) project. Project Officer: Dr. Selete Avoke.

