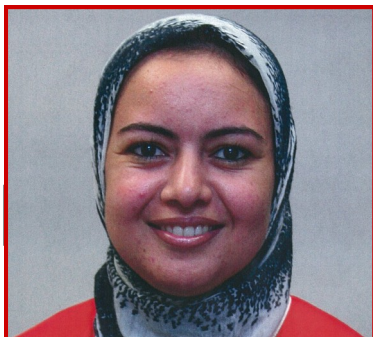


SPOTLIGHT ON STUDENT SUCCESS

FDEA 2007 STUDENT ESSAY CONTEST WINNER



**Winner,
Aida Abdrabo**

“...trying to make the difference with teaching math to young students is the primary vocation that I was meant to perform in this life.”

Aida Abdrabo is the winner for the Student Success Essay Contest for 2007. Ms. Abdrabo is a student at Miami Dade College. She has the wonderful goal of someday returning to Miami Dade as a math instructor! Here is her winning essay:

~ Gail Burkett

My Educational Goals and Ambitions

There is a saying in my country that the difference between life and death is a dream. When one does not have a dream to live for, then he or she is effectively dead. And this is also the case with me because as we all come to this life for specific reasons my goals involve supporting the dreams of school children in terms of mathematics. In summary, being a math teacher is my educational goal, and trying to make the difference with teaching math to young students is the primary vocation that I was meant to perform in this life.

Since I was little girl, I have been fascinated and loved to work with numbers. Even now when I get upset, I try to overcome my problem by working out a

complex math problem. I remember when I was in middle school and I solved a difficult math problem, the feeling was just like winning the lottery and a million dollars. And those small successes, not frustrations about math, such a critical subject are what I wish to impart on my future students as a mathematics teacher. Mathematic was and is still the best subject I enjoy the most and have mastered.

When I attended the accounting high school, I got a very high score; however, my teachers were chagrined when I gave up a promising career and decided to get married. This is an awful dilemma that many female students face - it is either a higher education or good career or it is marriage, and perhaps children.

For the above reasons, I forsook my dream of going to college. I suffered because I gave up what my heart and head really wanted to do. Having a mathematical mind is a gift from God, so I used it as best as I could to help my neighbors, a cousin and friends and watched them reach their dreams in math and accounting classes.

When I wake up and look in the mirror each morn-

ing, I see myself as a teacher who can make the difference with students, if only I can make my dream come true. This is why I am applying for this scholarship.

Moreover, I will not stop when I will get my bachelor's degree, but I will continue to study and one day obtain a master's degree in childhood behavior. I am full of hope that one day I will come back to Miami Dade College, not as a student, but as a role model of a female who succeeded. And succeeded not only in mastering a subject -mathematics- but in conquering a new culture and new language so different from my own.

If I could give you one word to state why I deserve this scholarship, then it would be stamina. Stamina means to never let any one take you dream or stop you from achieving your goal or killing your dreams. Like the many other who will apply, this scholarship will give me the opportunity to make my dream come true. I believe I am worthy of this chance because I am an excellent student and a tireless worker and have a dream which will help a community in desperate need of skilled mathematics teachers.