

# Our City Miramar

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# Miramar High School Students are Soaring into Their Future

BY BEVERLY PERKINS

The first program of its kind just took off, literally, for Miramar High School students in grades 10-12. These students get to experience the first career dual enrollment program at the Emil Buehler Aviation Institute on the Judson A. Samuels South Campus in Pembroke Pines through Broward College. Thirty-nine teens are currently participating with an astonishing thirty percent of the group being female.



The first of its kind in Broward County, the high schoolers enrolled in the Broward College Postsecondary Adult Vocational (PSAV) Aviation Maintenance program will complete one Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certificate, either Airframe or Powerplant, by the time they graduate Miramar High School. The participating students can then continue their education at Broward College to complete their Associate of Science (AS) degree in Aviation Maintenance Management and have the future opportunity to obtain their Bachelor of Science degree in Aerospace Science by 2024.

“Broward College is committed to offering programs like this that will benefit students’ education and the future of our community,” said Broward College

President Gregory Haile. “Thanks to our strong relationship with Broward County Public Schools, these students will have the opportunity to become initial leaders in the aviation industry which is one of the fastest growing industries in the region.”

The students recently gained real-world experience working on a Cessna 402 Businessliner, twin-engine piston aircraft donated by Wayman Aviation. This brings the total number of aircraft at Broward College’s Emil Buehler Aviation Institute to eight, more than the national average for aviation schools.

The Cessna 402, valued at nearly \$150,000, is considered a workhorse of the Caribbean. It’s one of the most popular piston charter aircraft in the industry, which means students will be able to easily apply their knowledge to jobs in the Bahamas and the Caribbean. The Cessna is located in the hangar adjacent to the high school classroom and will be instrumental in students completing the general requirements of their FAA Airframe and Powerplant certifications.

“This program is a great opportunity for me. A lot of students speak about being a pilot and flying. I want

to know what gets the plane in the air,” said senior Miramar High School student Kiara Shannon. “My family is so proud of me. I come from a family of mechanics, but none of them are aviation mechanics. I find it very exciting. It’s not only a man’s job!”

“This is an interest-based program. It’s important to look at what might hold a student back from going to college. If the students like what they are doing they will be successful,” added Sean Gallagan, Associate Dean, Transportation Programs at Broward College.



# American Heritage School Leads Country in National Merit Scholarship Semifinalists

BY TERRY JAILLET

American Heritage School (AHS), in Plantation, has the highest number of National Merit Semifinalists of any private school in the country. It is also has the more Semifinalists than any other high school in Florida for the 9th consecutive year. Seventy seniors at the school were recognized by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) this year. In fact, one in four of the Class of 2019 is a nation-

ally recognized scholar.

“American Heritage has taught me you can be a big fish in a big pond, and you can get ahead and learn so much,” said AHS senior Eric Bazail. “The rigor that is expected of us, the collaborative aspect in all my classes and the incredible resources available at Heritage have helped me become much more knowledgeable and a better student.”

The National Merit Scholarship Program was founded to identify and honor scholastically talented American youth and to encourage them to develop their abilities to the fullest.

Only 1% of the 1.6 million entrants are selected as Semifinalists each year. The Semifinalists are students who achieve the highest scores on the PSAT/NMSQT in their respective states. About half of the Semifinalists go on to win

scholarships. The

NMSC will choose the winners of the \$2,500 scholarships from the pool of finalists in the spring.

Eleven of the Semifinalists are residents of Miramar, including:

- Makenna Boose
- Sebastian Gracia
- Paridhi Kapadia
- Trishala Kumar
- Andrew Ma
- Samara Miller
- Ephraim Oyetunji
- Joseph Poon
- Shirley Wong
- Darius Corbie
- Atul Iyer

American Heritage High School Principal, Elise Blum, commented, “It is quite an accomplishment to be among the top 1% of high school students in the entire nation, and I hope this recognition empowers them to keep exceeding the potential in college and in their future careers.”

**For more information about the National Merit Scholarship Program visit [www.nationalmerit.org](http://www.nationalmerit.org). For more info about American Heritage School or to register for an open house visit: [www.ahschool.com](http://www.ahschool.com)**

