Caguas, Puerto Rico
Grant Period: 2003-2006

Building on a history of success

Bridge to Employment (BTE) – Caguas, Puerto Rico is an outgrowth of Johnson & Johnson’s School-to-Career initiatives with Notre Dame High School to reach out to at-risk youth.

The School-to-Career Learning Center engaged more than 100 young people in programs aimed at enhancing students’ personal and academic skills. The Center has curricula that supports student achievement in Spanish, Math, English, Science and Technology, while providing additional supports to foster character, leadership, self-esteem, motivation, responsibility, decision-making, community relations, and healthy family relations.

Through BTE, students were also introduced to career opportunities within the health care industry and gained career-building skills including resume preparation, interviewing, and public speaking skills development. To strengthen the link between academic learning and the world of work, presentations by guest speakers, site visits to health facilities, and internships in various business fields were key components of the program. All students participated in internship rotations.

The success is clear. Staff at the School to Career Learning Center report, “100% of our students graduate from high school and are accepted into universities.”
Wilfredo Chiclana Díaz
BTE-Caguas, Puerto Rico
Program Director

Set high standards for students and staff to achieve. BTE) – Caguas, Puerto Rico program director Wilfredo Chiclana Díaz does just that.

Wilfredo Chiclana Díaz has been the Program Director of Puerto Rico’s BTE program for over twelve years. During his tenure, he has succeeded in bringing the program to a higher level. Thanks to his vision the program has developed and expanded its curriculum and philosophy. He strives to maintain educational excellence as well as encourage students to set goals and strive to meet them. Wilfredo works with students in the classroom and at their job placement and is in constant communication with the staff and partners in an effort to align students’ internships with their academic learning. He has been essential in establishing the School to Career Learning Center and ensuring the center’s continued success.