

**2016
Chet Perry
Breakthrough
Achiever**

Fernanda Geronimo

Fernanda Geronimo, a 19-year-old Lehigh Acres resident, had completed a dental program but became doubtful that she'd find employment when she could not secure an externship.

Geronimo came to the Lehigh Job-Link Center for help with her resume and for assistance to apply for Access benefits.

Job-Link Coordinator Amalia Cruz worked with Geronimo, who was unemployed and lacked work experience.

Besides resume assistance, the young woman was given the opportunity to gain work experience as a volunteer office assistant at the Job-Link Center.

"For six months, she has grown as an individual and professionally," said Cruz. "She is learning to serve a variety of clients and is able to clearly communicate with others."

On Thursday afternoons, she shares her enjoyment of American History by leading the citizenship class. She also networks with businesses in the community who may be looking for employment candidates.

Cruz was looking for an assistant and Geronimo fulfilled the job description.

"When interviewing others for the position, it became obvious that her knowledge of Job-Link services were far beyond others interviewing."

"I was amazed at her ability to communicate with those seeking services at the center," said Dwight Powell, Job-Link Manager.

"I feel great knowing I can help others where I once stood in their shoes," she said.

In addition to working part-time as a Goodwill Job-Link employee in Lehigh Acres, Geronimo also has achieved a dental externship at Riverdale Dentistry where she works part-time as a sterile technician and clinical assistant.

She has a new goal now — she wants to go back to school and become a social worker.

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for helping me find my passion!"*

