

Broward College employees help save a life

In a dramatic rescue, three Broward College employees saved a man who was attempting suicide in the parking garage in downtown Fort Lauderdale. It happened at about 8 a.m. on Friday, Oct. 9, just as George Fabre, a senior financial aid adviser, Rosa Benavides, a part-time financial aid assistant, and Hantz Pierre, a response center specialist, were each pulling into parking spots on the sixth floor of the garage.

George spotted a man taking off his shirt near the railing on the east side of the structure. Concerned for the safety of his colleague Rosa, who was still in her car, he phoned her to say there's a suspicious man out here, so stay put. By this time, Rosa also saw the frightening scene. She ran downstairs to call security as George approached the distraught man.

Meanwhile, Hantz ran up as the man began to lean over the rail. He and George grabbed the man by the legs and unbuckled the belt he had attached to the railing. They were assisted by a city employee who happened by. The man was struggling with his rescuers and yelling, but they held him until Rosa returned with security and police officers.

The three heroes immediately phoned Marcia Conliffe, associate vice president of student success and enrollment management, who was en route to another campus at the time. "When I spoke to them they were so shaken up," she said. It was Marcia who insisted that the story of the rescue be told. "They're great!" she said, expressing the pride that the entire Broward College family feels about the heroes in our midst.

The man was safely taken to a hospital by police officers.

