

Rebecca (Alaska)

Rebecca is 39 years old, and owns and operates her own microenterprise business named “Becca’s Alpacas” which was started with funding from a microenterprise grant. She recently opened her first storefront shop. The idea for her business was influenced by her experiences in high school where her school offered hands-on learning experiences on a 70-acre farm. Rebecca had opportunities to learn work skills in the afternoons, such as weaving, land work, animal care, and packaging food in the store for delivery to houses on the property.



After high school, Rebecca attended a work program where she worked in food service and janitorial type jobs. “I did not feel this was meaningful employment for me,” Rebecca said. “I realized that I wanted to work in a job which would allow me to be my own boss and work in an occupation that interests me.”

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Since Rebecca always enjoyed working with animals and crafts, she turned to her providers and family for support in starting “Becca’s Alpacas.” Rebecca cares for alpacas and uses their fleece to spin into yarn for sale. “I really enjoy and love working at my company and plan on expanding the amount of products I sell.”

Rebecca reflects that she wishes she had a good transition plan before she left school. “It would have helped me establish some goals for employment,.” She says. “I absolutely love my business and feel I now have achieved a meaningful life. I encourage others who are still in school to make sure you develop a Transition Plan, which focuses on goals that are realistic to achieve and are in an area of employment that you would enjoy.”