
MINNESOTA YOUTH SUCCESS STORY: LARISSA

WSA 2 – RURAL MINNESOTA CONCENTRATED EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

LARISSA



Larissa is a 20 year old youth who came to the WIA Youth Program nearly two years ago. When she enrolled with the Rural Minnesota CEP youth program, she had very low interpersonal skills and her work experience was limited to babysitting for friends and family. Larissa did not have confidence in her own ability to find and keep a job and felt overwhelmed at first. A short time into her participation in WIA, Larissa transitioned into a work training opportunity with a local café. She started out washing dishes and was not very outgoing. Through mentoring and skill building, Larissa came out of her shell and showed that she actually had strong interpersonal skills and an aptitude for being in the kitchen. After that first work experience, Larissa shifted to another worksite to help set up a restaurant from start to finish. She continued to show her value as a worker through being reliable, willing to try new things, and her ability to learn quickly. The restaurant eventually hired her with the help of Rural Minnesota CEP to learn to be a cook in their full kitchen. Larissa has successfully completed her on-the-job training program through RMCEP, has exited the Youth Program and continues to be employed at the Sunshine Kitchen in Brainerd as a cook.

“The CEP Program provided me with the training and confidence I needed to be able to get a job. I’m pretty sure I never would have gotten hired anywhere on my own.”

Larissa, 20-year-old WIA Youth “Graduate”

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