

## *Larrisa Cummings*



### *Alaska WIPA Project Director and Microenterprise Fund Administrator, University of Alaska Anchorage, Center for Human Development*

Larrisa Cummings is a project director at the University of Alaska, Center for Human Development. She is on a mission to encourage competitive wage employment and self-employment as viable employment options for people who experience a disability.

Over the last decade, she has assisted Alaskan entrepreneurs in applying for funds through the Alaska Mental Health Trust Authority Microenterprise Grant. These entrepreneurs have experienced developmental disability, mental illness, traumatic brain injury or alcohol or substance addiction. This grant allows Trust beneficiaries to start or expand a small business.

Larrisa is the director of the Alaska Work Incentives Planning & Assistance (WIPA) Project and is a certified Community Work Incentives Coordinator (CWIC). The WIPA Project provides individualized benefits and work incentives counseling to Social Security beneficiaries who are working or about to work. This project provides essential information regarding how benefits might be impacted by work or self-employment. WIPA Projects are part of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act.

She manages the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) Quality Assurance program which monitors the requirements of benefits counselors in Alaska to make sure their work is accurate. This program ensures they remain qualified to provide benefits counseling services to DVR clients.