

East High senior plans college focus on business

by Barbara Crane

Tundra Times reporter

Carol Beckett has big plans for her life, and she's already busy making them happen.

A senior at Anchorage's East High School, she is very involved in Native youth activities.

"I chaired a statewide conference in March for young people who want to become Native leaders," Beckett said.

There is one Native leader in particular after whom Beckett would like to pattern her life.

"Willie Hensley of NANA is my idol," she said. "He's a real inspiration to me — how far he's gone and all the things he has accomplished."

Beckett also works with a program at East High School called Elitnaurvik Within East.

"Elitnaurvik means 'a place to learn,'" Beckett explained. "It's like a school within a school."

"It's for Native students who have trouble with the regular high school program. If they get kicked out of the main high school for some reason, they can attend classes within the EWE program and still get credit for it."

Beckett's eventual goal is to work for the NANA Regional Corp., either in Kotzebue or Anchorage. But first



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she wants to attend college and study business.

"My mom wants me to go to college," she said, "but I want to do it for myself, too. No one in my family has graduated from college, and I want to be the one to do it."

"College will get me further in life. I always want to keep learning and learning, and college is the best place to start."