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Anna Aviani-Wilson bio for the Women of Distinction 2020:

Anna Aviani-Wilson did not start off as an academic or as a business person. She started out with a two-year degree from Queensborough community College. Her parents, being from humble Italian origins, did not understand her need for an education. They also could not afford it. So, she received grants and assistance and persevered at that school with a 4.0 grade point average and three distinctive scholarship awards. And, that is when she got the bug! Her part-time job at school was tutoring Vietnam Vets. She would go to the homes of these injured soldiers and help them pass their classes. As time went on, she got married and had a child and took a leave from teaching.

After a few years, she wanted to not only return to teaching but begin teaching students like her. Students from low income families with one parent homes and/or from drug infested neighborhoods. She applied to Hofstra University and finished her BA in Business Education followed by her Masters in Special Education. After trying two different school positions in Massapequa and Valley Stream, she decided this was not for her.

Anna started working for a tutoring agency on Long Island that supplied certified teachers to the schools when a student was out of school on home instruction. Most of these students were at risk children and greatly benefited from Anna's ability to identify with them. Very quickly Anna saw she could improve the home instruction world. Students were not getting the home instruction that they deserved. So, she started her own company.

First, with just herself, a T.A. (who is now her partner) and a few selected teachers who she felt were like minded in caring about the welfare of the students. Quickly the schools realized and appreciated her results with this population and she started getting more and more requests from all districts in Long Island. Today, Alternative Tutoring, Inc. services 16 districts on Long Island, including a daytime drug facility, and three suspension centers. She employs 80-90 teachers who all get personally screened and must adhere to the philosophy that the student is the client, not the district or the parent. Anna has been teaching special education and at-risk students since 2000 while running a successful company.