

My Career Goals

When I was younger, I wanted to grow up and be a psychiatrist. That has not happened. Dreams change. I went to college in 1994 intending to study Computer Science to become a computer programmer. I was fascinated by computers and dreamed of the ways that they could make our lives better. One could say that programming requires creativity, but it was a level of creativity that my ultra-creative mind could not embrace. My dreams becoming a computer programmer faded. I married one instead. In seeking a new area of passion, the pipe dream of law school emerged, but in actuality I fell into web and graphic design and enjoyed over 20 years working in the industry.

Never did I dream of being a business owner, small or otherwise, but that is exactly what happened. Living in times of uncertainty, I find myself reflecting on this business and where I want to go from here. There have been bumps in the road and disruptions along the way, priorities have changed, but I have learned to adapt. I frequently wonder, “Where does my small business go next?”

I would be remiss if I did not admit the excitement these changes have brought. They say, “When life gives you lemons, make lemonade” (theidioms.com). That is exactly what I did in 2018, I was still in survival mode two years after relocating due to my husband’s job and the forced change of clientele. The business was sinking, but I was reminded of the advice given by Ruth Stafford Peale, “Find a need and fill it.” What started as utilizing my talent at sewing, became the saving grace of my business. I thought it would be a temporary, but it stuck. Not only did it keep my business afloat, but I saw it thrive.

My return to school at BYU-Idaho was to help develop additional skills to develop the business into something more than it was. The initial focus was on business, but I found those fashion industry related courses more enticing. Never in my wildest dreams did I think I would find a new passion in fashion. My studies now include certificates in Basic Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Social Media Marketing, and Apparel Design and Construction.

Today, my career goal is to grow my business, Stacey Sansom Designs, to offer additional sewing and fashion related products and services. These include more fashion design that embraces modesty, functionality, and size inclusivity. I want to focus on pattern making for plus-sized fashions

for men, women, and children that encourages a more inclusive fashion market, especially in the areas that are largely overlooked because the skills are not taught in the classroom. I want to continue to educate the public about sewing and help them gain new sewing skills or advance their existing skills. One day, I want to open a boy's and men's fashion boutique that offers the boutique shopping experiences that have largely only been available to girls and women. Mothers of boys should not be limited to large scale retailers or small chains where boys are a side thought because their clothing does not offer frills and lace.

In addition to completing my Bachelor of Science in Professional Studies at BYU-Idaho with the four previously listed certificates, I will pursue additional fashion industry education through other educational and training resources such as internships and industry related certifications.