

Project Title: Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience

Interview Summary

Interviewees:

Aly, Vancil

Interviewer:

Megan, Kyriss

Interview Date:

10/18/2020

Location:

Online

Interview Summary completed by:

Megan, Kyriss, 2020

Topic:

CSUSB and the COVID-19 Pandemic

Keywords:

- COVID-19
- CSUSB
- Online Learning
- Technology

Comments:

Additional thoughts, impressions, or points that should be documented

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
Audio	00:13:45	COVID-19 and CSUSB

Full interview transcript can be found below.

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Digital audio

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Start of Interview:

00:00:08

00:00:08-00:00:20

- Mix audios confirming receipt of consent form.

Megan K: So the first question is, what do you remember about the day in March when CSUSB announced their response to go virtual due to the pandemic

Aly V: Umm so what I remember is like kinda being like oh cool because I like online classes but then I know that I was also thinking that man this is gunna suck because some of my classmates are um a little, they were a little bit older and the program i'm in and they had more trouble with technology so I also thought about that. And then also the fact that my internship site turned into an um like a virtual thing as well which was kina frustrating because my internship the whole purpose was to get in person experience and so I kinda lost that opportunity and it just kinda became more virtual, so like that's kina what I remember everything happening it was just complete chaos and having to re structure everything because my program wasn't prepared for that, they do

have online classes but its an um different program and it's a longer program and so when they had to do it for us it was kinda like learning as we went and it was a learning process the whole time because some of the teachers had never done online before so it was kinda a learning curve and working with our teachers and stuff like that.

Megan K: Very nice umm, so how did you still stay connected how what tools did you use um during this time to stay connected to your classes or anything outside of your classes

Aly V: Um so we did like a lot of email I know that we used zoom, if we had class projects we would we would like my group would use zoom to kinda connect with each other and still be able to do our meetings that we needed to do for our projects um and then I also stayed connected I'm part of some of the social media platforms I follow the school and the different programs through there so I can kinda see what's going on if they have any virtual events things like that so that's how I stayed connected, but for classes it was mostly email and that was our big point of contact just because most of our professors were working from home so we don't really have their phone numbers so we had to kinda connect with them through email and then set up like a Zoom meeting in order to do office hours and stuff like that with them

Megan K: With the use of all this technology was there any issues with it um did you have to change anything at home to accommodate all of the online learning

Aly V: Um so I didn't but I kinda got lucky because that past December I had gotten a brand new laptop um and so I kinda didn't have to have as much things kinda integrated into it because my laptop came prepared but I think if I didn't have my laptop that I had gotten I would have been struggling because the other laptop that I was using before it would like randomly crash um I would be in the middle of lie a Zoom meeting and then it would just kick me off the internet and things like that so I think if I wouldn't have kinda upgraded in December I would have been having allot more trouble but from what I remember I wasn't really struggling I really didn't have to do anything I just had to like download that like the Zoom app and stuff like that but other than that nothing really

Megan K: What has it been like to do all of this virtually um was there anything that became a big issue that you weren't able to do other than obviously the internship changed drastically

Aly V: Soo with the learning so I do well online learning um but I know we did have one professor that it was a bit more challenging for him and so it kinda affected us in the class because it was supposed to be a weekly class and then because we went virtually he kinda made it every other week um er no not even that I think we met a total of four maybe five times and that was kinda frustrating because um myself and allot of my classmates um we were struggling with the assignments and when we got to the class it would be the class like the day before the the assignment was due was when we finally got the clarification of what we really needed to be doing and so everyone pretty much had it almost done and we had to completely change everything in our assignment so

we wouldn't get docked points um and so that was a bit frustrating and it was um even if we tried to do office hours it was really difficult for people so um but that was only one particular teacher so I don't know if it was a learning curve for that professor and it was just a little bit harder for him to do online stuff but um all my other classes were pretty fine we were able to get everything done but we also met more on a frequent basis so we met almost every single week once or twice um just depending on the teacher so um just having that kinda frustration because we were doing it virtually before we weren't supposed to be doing it virtually so kinda working with that was kinda frustrating

Megan K: So aside from classes uh having the school itself closed did you run into any problems with that not being able to go to buildings not being able to

Aly V: so um it was a little bit um so I wasn't able to use the services so um I kinda used a lot of the services before that I just remember being frustrated because I couldn't get on campus um I would also um sometimes utilize the career the job resource development I just know its in university hall but um I would utilize them and go in and get help with my resume and they had like the clothing closet um that we can get interview stuff for like clothing lines so I wasn't able to use that and I was having a lot of job interviews come up and then I was kinda just scrounging with what I already had and I didn't have um as much professional clothes that I should but yea it was just hard because I was used to being able to like if I had trouble I could just go talk to my professors directly and just walk into their office and talk to them and really last minute super quick and then with that I couldn't and then I was also submitting my um my research project for my program and I had to I had a lot of stuff come up where I needed to see my professors in person and I couldn't and it was a lot of taking screenshots or sharing the information I had or pictures or emails and kinda going back and forth and uh doing that a lot instead of being in person and them showing me I had to kinda work more virtually and it was way harder than it should have been so that was a little more frustrating because I couldn't use um the um particular program that I needed on the school's computer system that my program had and so I actually um that's something I also did with technology I had to actually download the spss system onto my own laptop in order to do all of my information and transcribe it into spss and then run all my all of my stuff for my research project so that was kinda frustrating because that um was something that we did a short class on and I didn't really learn a lot on it and we had to do a lot of virtual stuff and my professors had to help me on a whole lot so that was kinda frustrating because I couldn't use the um computer labs that are designated for that specific thing

Megan K: Yeah its struggling with connectivity is always difficult and with connectivity there comes connectivity with other people how has the quarantine isolation and social distancing affected your life and relationships with friends and family

Aly V: Um so with that um I kind of because of the people that I live with one of them is a nurse um and so because of that we couldn't have the extra exposure so um I had to limit myself just from work and um if I had to do something for school and it required in person things and it was very very rare um but kind of limiting myself I didn't see some

of my family members for most of the quarantine until I think the first kind of opening which I think was about July so for like three months I like didn't really see anyone um except the people I worked with one of my sisters I work with but my other sisters I couldn't even see them um one of them lives or she works in Alaska and so when she came down I couldn't even see her because I didn't want to have that extra exposure but she's only here for a certain amount of months before she goes back to work um for a year so that was kind of frustrating and just being stuck at home I just went on more walks and stuff like that to get out but I couldn't really do much and I tried to just limit myself

Megan K: And how do you feel any stress that has come as a result of this and the social distancing

Aly V: Um its just kind of frustrating because there are some people that feel that the whole COVID situation is real and some people feel that its not that it's a hoax so its having to deal with both sides of people and like when you go out into public you have some people that are non-believers and they don't really respect other peoples personal space and there's not really much we can do um about that because that's their own personal belief but its just um it was just frustrating sometimes um and still having to go to work with things like that and being an essential worker and just kind of um doing everything I could to try and protect myself and my family

Megan K: So have you been feeling any uncertainty or anything unique as a result of these times with COVID

Aly V: Um I think some of the uncertainties is thee like current job market and trying to find jobs in this time because it feels like there are more people than normal um who are having to find different jobs because of COVID and people losing their jobs because of COVID and things like that and so with the job market it's increasing and that's causing allot more stress and I've um kinda had to switch things around in my life and kinda postpone things just because of the uncertainty of um not having like a full time job so that's been kind of frustrating and kind of stressful

Megan K: And how are you feeling with this job climate how things are changing as a result of COVID do you think that it will be easier for you later to become for comfortable with it or do you worry that its not going to get any better

Aly V: Um I think it will get better I feel like right now it especially with the field i'm going into it it's kind of a good thing because we can use things like telehealth and things like that and I feel like we're learning that um the population that we do serve they are able to learn from this experience and actually some are getting more benefit from this because they have sometimes better access because you can do it over the phone or like a video chat or something like that instead of trying to do it in person um so I think my particular field that I'm trying to go into like I think this is something that we might grow from and we might utilize in the future and just find different ways of doing virtual stuff sometimes especially if it worked better for the clients that we serve

Megan K: And is there anything else you would like to add about the COVID crisis or how it's affected you or how you're feeling about it

Aly V: Mmm I don't think I have really anything else to say about it it's just something that we're going through right now and we're just kind of all just talking it day by day and taking it with the regulation changes and things like that so that's all we really can do

Megan K: Alright well thank you so much again for all of your help and thank you for meeting with me um it's very insightful to get to know about all of the changes not only at the school but in the world that affect us all thank you

Aly V: Your welcome

End of Interview:

00:13:45