

Project Title: Documenting the CSUSB COVID-19 Experience

Interview Summary

Interviewees:

Isaiah Mora

Interviewer:

Ronald DeRosier

Interview Date:

10/14/20

Location:

Redlands, California via zoom

Interview Summary completed by:

First name, Last name, 4-digit year

Ronald DeRosier 2020

Topic:

Short description of topics discussed/covered

Covid-19 experiences through personal, school, and work life.

Keywords:

Covid-19

Stress

Work Environment

Black Lives Matter

School

Work

Comments:

Interview completed as an assignment for History course.

Interview Index:

Media Format	Time (hh:mm:ss)	Topic Discussed
.M4a	00:18:13	Covid-19 experiences through personal, school, and work life.

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Related Materials:

Full interview transcript can be found below.

Hi for the record state your name

Isaiah Mora

And you are a student at California state university, San Bernardino correct?

Indeed I am

What's your class standing?

I think right now junior or senior, I'm not too sure

And you were at the university when covid-19 first struck and you are currently attending the university

Yeah I was there before and during Covid

Ok well today I am going to have an interview with you regarding the experience of Covid-19 on students and faculty and I would like your consent to record said interview so it can be archived for future research use

Yeah I can consent

That's good to hear haha

Alright so alright today so what do you remember about the day in march when CSUSB announced their response to go virtual due to the pandemic?

Well I don't remember the exact day, I just know it was during march. Sorry. The day that they announced it just for me it sucked cause I knew I struggle with focusing for class.

Especially when I'm in class and now that we had to virtually do it from home, I knew it would be very difficult because I have a few siblings and you know a dog that always barks.

So there was tons of distractions here so you know I just kind of dreaded it. yeah

So is that all you got to say?

Yeah Basically

Ok, so how are you staying connected to the campus community of the university?

To be honest, I'm really not. I just show up to classes that are scheduled. I'm not going out of my to stay connected to campus cause I basically treat my home like school now so I don't feel the need to go outside and physically go to the CSUSB campus. So I'm not really connected just go to class through my IPAD and that's it.

So its fair to say that school is kind of of very centered on your classes and that you are not actively engaged in any kind of student organizations?

Yeah, I'm a straight forward guy. I'm just at school to get my degree. I mean campus life is cool and all but for me I'm just there for one basic reason

Ok so what role has technology played during the pandemic and how have you had have you had to acquire any new skills to effectively use unfamiliar technologies what does your work space look like?

That's a great question Ronnie

No names

So I'm not tech savvy even though I'm a generation Z. I'm not tech savvy at all. Where I'd never had a computer so when we CSUSB announced it would be going virtual. I actually started using my phone more. I downloaded the zoom app, google docs, google drive, I put everything on my phone. So for the first two weeks, I was literally sitting through zoom on my phone then it took awhile for me to adapt. so what I started doing after I was able to get ahold of an Ipad pro. So then I got a keyboard for it so it was kind of like a computer but just a lot cheaper for me financially. And then I started out in the kitchen actually doing my work because I didn't have a desk in my room or a desk in the house because we didn't have a computer. So I had to go you know rearrange the room, go buy furniture you know like desks, buy a desk a chair so I could have a little set up of mine own. So yeah that's how my setup looks like, its just a chair, a desk, and than an IPAD sitting on it. It's pretty plain but it really works well for me. I'm not an extravagant person when it comes to stuff like this. Let me see. Also a skill that I had to acquire was being very independent. I already know college is independent but me personally I like slack off, I kind of need someone watching over my shoulder. And that's why I like going to campus better because the professors are there and they can help you me so yeah.

To kind of stay accountable?

Yes exactly, its very difficult like when I got on track after like week 5 or week 4 with all my classes so I know what I'm doing now. I'm a little late to it but I got it

Alright, what has it been like learning, teaching, or working virtually?

Ok so learning wise it is very tough for me. Like I said I lose focus quickly and I hate I'm not a big fan of technology. So when I stare at an IPAD for too long I just get bored and since my bed is right next to me I just lay down and probably go to sleep for a bit. So that's like my learning has been like and then I'll just catch up later when I feel like I have time and when I feel like I want to do it. Cause sometimes I have to be in a mood you know to want to do work I can't like force myself to do work. It's really weird so when I'm in the zone I'm in the zone and when I'm not I'm not. And then working I work at a grocery store so yeah I'm still in person

Well when we say working we mean at the university so

I knew that I'm just messing

Please remember all you say is going into the record

Of course

How has the closure of the residence, dinning halls, campus services, and buildings affected you?

Well it really hasn't taken a big toll on my life. Because the only thing the only amenities I use at school was the library no not the library, the book store and then the dining hall.

And that was only when I was on campus and I was hungry so I felt like I'll just go get something to eat at the dining hall. But you know the books like getting books I could just go to Barnes & Noble cause its like maybe a mile away from me tops. So its not that difficult it hasn't really taken a big effect on me. It actually has saved me money though because I don't have to buy those parking passes and pay for gas cause I live like twenty minutes away. So virtually it actually helped me save money but I feel like I don't learn as much.

So its fair to say there is a trade off?

Yeah

Ok, So how do you handle the stress that we've all been experiencing related to the crisis?

I'm really good at suppressing stress. But after awhile I'll just start to like have the anxiety, panic attacks, just lay down and listen to music haha. Its just different for me, you know pet my dog just kind of don't talk don't think. Maybe go out for a drive. But it still sucks, I don't think I handle it well but I'm able to prolong stress but when it blows up it blows up pretty bad. Yeah

Alright, How has the quarantine, isolation, and social distancing affected your life and relationships with friends and family?

Well it did take a bit of an effect, I'm kind of a loner in a way. I have very few friends, I keep my circle small and we trust each other enough to like communicate with one another because we know we're not going out like to stores, and malls, and grocery stores and actively touching things so we're very pretty isolated here. I'm just I don't see my grand parents as much because I'm just you know afraid that I could give it to them because I work at a grocery store so there is risk. But I mean it hasn't really taken a toll on my personal life more on my work life and school you know. But yeah that's it kind of sucks though because isolating myself from my friends and family it does get pretty boring. So I don't really know what else to say. The words aren't coming to me.

Ok so question seven number two, tell me about how you are feeling given the uncertainty of these times

I feel like for me it just it just sucks you know cause I don't know what's going to happen. We're kind of just winging it the way I see it so it's a little troublesome worrisome. But I mean we're going to get through it. I'm not stressing too much over the isolating myself just more I'm more stressing about school work. But, overall I'm not too worried about it. Where I'm not letting it like control my life you know me freaking out like oh god I can't ever go outside in public again or what if I die? You know I keep it within the realm of reason.

Ok, Thinking back to the campus, do you think the campus acted appropriately by switching to virtual when they did or for the quarters that you experienced?

Yeah. They did what they had to do and even though it sucks and I'm not a fan of it. Its what they had to do and I think it was smart of them because we didn't know too much about how this virus was. So we kind of just backed off and gathered more info you know before we make any final decisions. So I think they did a good job handling it.

Ok, What do you recall about the political climate ie Black Lives Matter and Trump during this time and what new layer did it add during your experience of Covid-19?

Well, I remember when Covid hit and literally what was it like a month or a few weeks later when the incident with George Floyd occurred. And then it erupted society you know kind of took the media by storm. It really affected people's lives. I remember all of that. Cause one one memory that actually sticks out to me is when I was at work one night. And this is when the black lives matter movement for me in my opinion started to get out of hand is when they started looting and rioting. And when I was at work one night, they came a lot of looters and rioters came to my store or my work but they didn't break into our work. They broke into the stores next to us. And I remember that because I just remember everyone's faces in the store because we were almost closing so we only had a few customers left. And they were all single wives cause I work at a grocery store for people with low incomes. Those are mostly our shoppers. And it just it was crazy because they all looked scared, they all their babies in their hands, they were all single mothers, their babies are crying, their mothers looked worried you know didn't how to react they were just

scared. So that's what I recall, pretty negative experience you know. It just sucks. It just sucked in my opinion, you know I understand the whole black lives matter movement what they believe in but I think they just took it too far. And I sympathize but its just to a certain extent you have to stop you know. Like you can't just be looting rioting. And what's the reason why I think they are just looters and rioters is because the black lives matter movement hasn't really condemned any of it you know. Like its just crazy. With Trump, I really don't care. He's going for reelection so that's cool. I think that the media just portrays him as this really really awful guy and they're trying to bring him down so much where its just kind of dividing the nation. I don't even think it's the president dividing the nation, I believe it's the media and how they twist words that he says or you know or don't sympathize with the president at all or understand how he talks. So to a certain extent, I think that the media is the biggest problem.

Alright

Yeah

Did you have more to say or is that it?

Yeah it was very stressful on top of Covid

So you mentioned your work, so I take it you were considered essential?

Yeah I guess you could say that. That what the government says.

Did you did you have anything you wanted to mention about your work or was that the main experience you remember?

Let me tell you about work real quick cause I got a lot to say. So I didn't understand like, I remember when Covid came out when it like hit the news. I remember people were like freaking out but I didn't know how serious it was or how the people or residents would like understand it because when I came into work. We're not that busy you know, I've been working there for three years so I know when we are busy and not busy. But I knew it was bad when I couldn't find a parking spot in my own work. I had to park across the street at another store because I work at a grocery store. And everybody was there, the lines were backed up, I've never seen so many people at the store. And I've worked during Thanksgiving, Christmas, black Friday you name it. And then it was in March I believe, the store was full, everyone was shoulder to shoulder, supplies were gone, there toilet paper was missing, there was hand sanitizer missing, diapers you know, can food oh man it was awful. And then yeah.

Ok, well thank you for sharing that with us. Do you personally know anybody that was infected with Covid-19?

Yeah I knew one person they got Covid. It was my dad's friend but they're alive. Haha Well that's good.

But other than that, I really didn't know anybody else who had Covid.

Ok so is there anything else you would like to share about your Covid-19 experience?

It sucks haha.

You mentioned that previously.

No that's it.

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Start of Interview:

hh:mm:ss

End of Interview:

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