

Reflection Through COVID-19

When Covid-19 first came to the United States, the bay area was the first to be highly affected by the virus. It began with schools in the area deciding to shut down due to how fast the virus was spreading and how many cases were appearing in Santa Clara County. This affected me personally because this caused my last semester at SJSU to be suspended for a week, then transferred fully online. This was supposed to last only until the end of March, but SJSU decided to extend all online classes until the end of the semester, which is in May. While this transformation occurred, the county had implemented a “shelter at home” order until April 7th, which has now been extended until the end of May. Due to this order, this enforced all “non-essential” jobs to be shut down, including mine. Slowly the state is reopening up, but it is still taking a lot of time for businesses to open up and just for things to go back to normal.

This has been a very odd and stressful time to be in. Not only have I been having to adjust to online courses for my last semester, but also having to adjust to not really being able to go out anywhere, unless it is an essential need, and being unemployed. It has caused me a lot of stress because it has been a challenge to learn online and having to stay in place. It has been very difficult to find the motivation to complete assignments for my classes, but I am one of the lucky ones who have had amazing professors through this dramatic change. Honestly, I am very thankful for the professors I have for my last semester through this online change, because they have been super understanding and flexible for all of us students. Other than this time being stressful, it has also been disappointing. I am supposed to graduate with my Bachelor’s degree this May, but due to the current situation, all CSU’s, including SJSU, canceled their graduation ceremony. It was devastating hearing this news because I am a first-generation student in my family and now all my hard work is being uncelebrated due to Covid-19. I mean it is being recognized, but it is not the recognition that I want or deserve after the five years I have spent.

Due to my current employment status, it has also been very stressful because it is very expensive to be living in Santa Clara county, and unemployment does not offer enough for my bills to be paid. The company that I work for has announced to open up again in June, but being unemployed since March has taken a toll on my finances. Even with the extra support we are receiving from the state, it has led me to make the decision to have to leave the Bay area after “graduation” because I can no longer afford it living here, especially with me having to repay my loans from my undergraduate.

This pandemic has not been easy at all whatsoever, but all there is to do is follow the regulations we are given by our state leaders and hope that there is a cure to this soon.