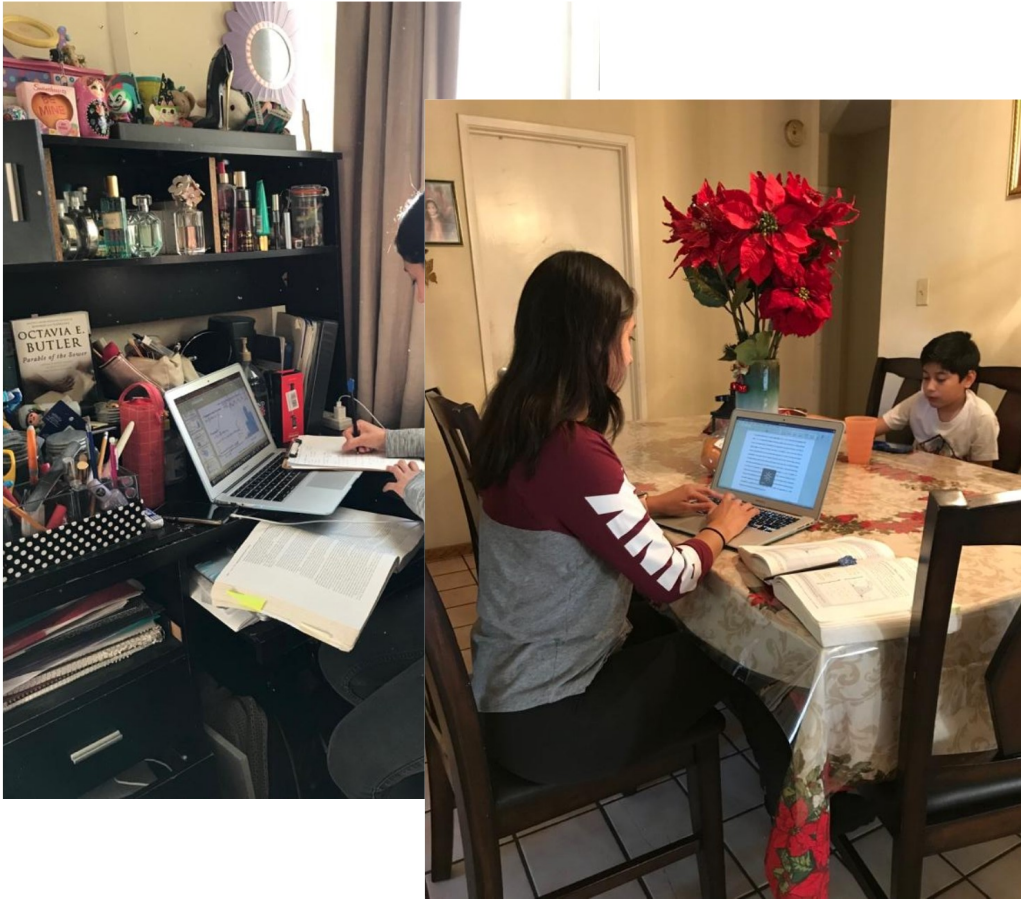




I am Jennifer Vargas Merlin, a Public Health Major with a minor in Business who graduates Fall 2020. I am a first-generation Mexican American student who comes from an undocumented family. As a college student, the pandemic has impacted my learning environment, the ability to afford college, and support my family. Like many in my situation, I lost my job and so did my parents, this affected the way we provided basic essentials such as food, housing, and medical prescriptions. The images above are visuals of my study area and how I attend classes. We are no longer allowed inside the SJSU library, which means I had to adjust my study techniques and habits to accommodate that of a loud environment. Furthermore, in the public health field we discuss the importance of proper information dissemination to reach a number of communities

and decrease COVID-19 cases. I live in the East Side of San Jose, California where majority of the population are Latinos and Asians. My classmates and I have at least 1 discussion per week on ways we can help our communities remain safe and have access to resources during the pandemic. In general, this time has been painful, full of grief, and agonizing, but I look forward to the day where we overcome the virus.