



Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19

Story ID: 43

Source: "Telling Our Stories: Western's Response to COVID-19," a project initiated at Western Washington University by Western Libraries Heritage Resources division. Originally published online at: <https://mabel.wwu.edu/islandora/object/wwu:37686>

Story date 02/24/2021
Name Khadija Krambo
Affiliation Student

Story contribution

2020 was definitely a year I wished the pandemic didn't occur in. The year I would become an adult, the year I would graduate high school with my Associates Degree, the year I would begin University. I managed to accomplish all three with the use of my laptop and somehow, a will to live. I was really looking forward to coming to Western and making new friends while going to classes, however it still wasn't safe to go back to school in person. There were some benefits to staying at home, once everything shut down and school moved online, it gave me a reprieve. I no longer had to work and was getting unemployment every week, which was hundreds of dollars more than I was receiving while working. Transitioning online was easier than I expected because a lot of our homework was already turned in online anyways. Some professors were less experienced with online classes so that was a bit challenging to learn the material in those cases. I do like in person classes much better because I'm able to pay more attention and interact and ask help from people easily. Staring at a computer all day and staying inside can be quite draining at times. Even though online classes are more flexible and you can create your own schedule, it's hard to have motivation to complete the work. Especially when so many people are experiencing struggles as a result of the pandemic and on top of whatever might be going on in our lives, it's been a challenge to focus on school. It has also been very lonely not being able to be on campus at all and forming new connections. A positive aspect of quarantine was partaking in Ramadan at home. My family and I fast during this month every year since it's one of the 5 pillars in Islam. When I was younger, Ramadan was in the summer for a few years so we were able to relax during the day and stay up all night until sunrise eating. We fast from sunrise to sunset and can't eat or drink anything. This tends to drain our energy quickly. When Ramadan was during the school year, we were able to eat at after sunset until we had to go to sleep, and then woke up an hour before sunrise to eat and go back to sleep and then wake up for school, fasting until sunset. It was difficult to fast and go to school at the same time, to focus and take tests. Ramadan is actually one of my favorite times of the year, despite others thinking that not being able to eat or drink is torture. There are a multitude of benefits to fasting, most importantly the spiritual benefit but also the mental/physical too. Being able to stay at home and not worry about school or work while fasting gave us more time and energy to focus on the special prayers and practices we do during this month. It was hard for us not to go to our mosque and see our fellow Muslim friends and eat iftar or celebrate Eid, but it was obviously not safe to gather with other people in quarantine. Even though I've had my fair share of struggles and happy moments during this period in my life, I am extremely grateful none of my friends or family have died from Covid. Our government did not deal with this pandemic correctly, and as a result so many people in the U.S. have suffered from Covid, unemployment, homelessness, food insecurity and more. I'm hopeful that the vaccines will start to take effect and the pandemic can be truly over, but until then I'll be trying to learn how to socially interact with humans again.

End of contributed text from Khadija Krambo