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How COVID-19 has Affected Job Opportunities for Students

As a student, studying at the University of Arizona, I have come to realizing being an adult is a lot harder than I had previously thought. However, having a steady income helps with most of the difficulties. When students were being sent home due to the coronavirus, I thought this would be a great opportunity to get a head start on my summer job, in hopes to save up for my sophomore year of college. Upon arrival home, my hopes had soon been lost in the chaos of what this virus would evolve to and how it would affect my hometown’s community.

I wanted to support myself and put the least amount of pressure on my parents, as I was already racking up debt for financial aid. I made it my goal to work as hard as possible over the summer so I could focus on classes throughout the school year. Upon my arrival home I scored a few babysitting gigs, but when the CDC started enforcing quarantine those ended pretty fast. I found myself online applying to any job I could as an essential worker, from grocery stores to elderly assisted homes, yet none of them responded. I was almost out of hope until one of my high school friends had mentioned she had recently gotten a job at a market 3 towns over from mine. While this was a bit far for my liking, I decided to apply. As a backup, I also signed up for a mobile food delivery app. While it was guaranteed I could make money through delivering food, it wasn’t the ideal summer job I had hoped for. When I got asked to come in for an interview, I was asked to wear a face mask and abide by the social distance rule of six feet. When I arrived, I was taken outside to talk to a staff member, we sat six feet apart and both wore masks covering our faces. I remember thinking this was something I’d never think I would be doing. It was hard to hear, I felt uncomfortable being so separated while attempting to have an engaging conversation and most of all, I was wondering how the associate could hire someone without even seeing half their face. The first thing I notice when I meet someone is their smile, my smile is also what I use to greet people and how I show them I am a friendly person. It was difficult for me to not have that aspect present in a professional interview.

Overall, the new measures taken to prevent the spread of this virus is making others feel out of place. While these measures are completely necessary, one may find themselves wondering how long it will go on for and if everyone will be resistant to interacting with one another, or even go out into public without hesitation. This experience was different than one I had ever endeavored, and my hopes are that society won’t have to deal with these precautions for much longer.