

Daelyn Rhoden

Times In COVID-19

It was a week before spring break that I started to notice signs all over my school, Pima Community College, where it said “wash your hands 20-second minimum regularly” when I started to think that something wasn’t right. Immediately, I started to feel like if something was going to change, a fear took over my body that whispered my ear “get out of here, and go with your family”. Of course, I needed to wait until spring break and I did; as soon as I finished my last class of the day, I got back to my apartment, I packed my clothes and I returned to Nogales. Sonora were part of my closest family lives. I spent the most wonderful weekend with my family, but still, something really deep inside me couldn't be at peace because of the fear that something big was coming, and indeed it did. All events were canceled, concerts, trips, restaurants, dates, school. Every day my school sent me messages about COVID-19 and possibilities of what could happen to our classes. Every-body freaked out! For some irrational reason, paper towels got out of stock, then, food was starting to disappear in grocery stores as well. I went back to Tucson for some of my stuff, but I left others because I had the hope of returning to school, and continue with my normal life, but not, I don't think we will ever return to “normality”, or at least not the “normality” that we know. Luckily I had a computer and access to the internet, so I was able to transition as an online student. This COVID-19 pandemic has had a very negative impact on my academic writing. There were days where I couldn't focus enough to write about a specific subject, because the only thing that would be in my mind was the worries of “when is this going to end”, or “How am I going to continue with my plan if this place is closed!”. But then I reminded myself that this wasn't easy for anybody. COVID-19 gave us all

a punch of reality in the face. What I was most worried about was the people with children that lost their jobs.

All the world stopped, and it left me thinking about how something so little could have such a big impact on us. The fact that anybody knew what was going to happen, made me think that we are so focused in the economic and industrialized world that we created that we forget that there are other worlds out there, that are as important as ours. For the same reason, my academic goals changed. Now I'm definitely interested in graduating as a biologist and focus my career in the tiny world of microbes which includes bacteria and viruses to someday, in the future, be able to help an entire nation if possible.