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Class of 2020 Life in the Time of Coronavirus Scholarship

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A Class of 2020 Senior in the Time of the Coronavirus Era

The Corona Virus came and robbed many of us of our well-deserved moments of celebration. It took from us memories that can never be replicated. As a senior, I can take it one step further and confess that it has caused anxiety and depression. This experience has definitely impacted me for life. It took me weeks to pick myself up and focus on my future rather than on the present day circumstances. Although we are receiving many forms of support from our community, it still hurts to let go of our Prom and Rose Ceremony. I miss my friends, my teachers and overall my school. Once I acknowledged my feelings and accepted the situation, I was able to move forward and realize that there are other things more important than ceremonies.

I have definitely had a mind shift when it comes to how I will live my life moving forward. For example, in the words of Benjamin Franklin “Never leave that till tomorrow which you can do today.” This is because when I left school on March 13, 2020 for spring break, I never imagined that I would not come back at all to finish my senior year. Therefore, I am glad

that I attended every game, I ran for homecoming queen, that I participated in so many clubs and organizations, and that basically I took advantage of all my school had to offer. I have no regrets because I lived every day of my high school years to the fullest. Even with the devastation that is occurring right now, I can be satisfied that “I did it all.”

I have a long list of accomplishments that look good on my resume. I have extensive community service hours and an almost perfect 99.4 GPA. However, my vision towards the future has definitely been impacted by the recent COVID-19 turmoil. I have recognized that there are others that are suffering around me. I have decided that I will not be self-centered. Instead, I will focus on others that need emotional support and leadership right now. As Senior Class President, I am constantly communicating with my classmates and keeping them motivated during this difficult time. My role has evolved from being a ceremonial leader to being a strong advocate for my constituents. I am now more than ever humbled to have been elected President 4 years in a row for the Class of 2020. Nothing could have prepared me for this situation. I have had to reach deep into my values and personality to get us through this.

I believe that I have been an active contributor to society. This whole experience has taught me how to take it to the next level though. Specifically, to deal with what life throws your way with bravery and courage. You have to stare adversity in the face and deal with it. Many adults are telling us that we will come back stronger after this and that it will make us better people. I'm beginning to understand what that means. On my end, I will contribute to society by directly impacting those that are around me. I will spend my time working with classmates that are clearly suffering emotionally. Lending a friendly ear and sending letters of reassurance can

go a long way. I think that as a community we need to place special attention to our seniors that may not have support system at home right now. We need to ensure that we don't allow these times that are supposed to be happy to turn into disappointment. I will do my part to help others overcome these unprecedented times through my leadership and personal experience.