



1 Williams, La-Sheba : Okay, so this project is the student life during COVID-19. I'm you LA-
2 Sheba Williams, and I'm calling from South Shore, Chicago, Illinois. Can you tell me your
3 name and where you're calling from?

4
5 Christen Weeden : I'm Christen Weeden. I'm calling from Hammond, Indiana.

6
7 Williams, La-Sheba: Cool. Christen, can you tell me Where were you born? And can you tell
8 me your birth month and year?

9
10 Christen Weeden: So, I was born in 1999, in Lansing, Illinois.

11
12 Williams, La-Sheba: Thank you, um, can you tell me where your parents were born and also
13 their birth month and year?

14
15 Christen Weeden: So, my mom was born in 1968, in Chicago, Illinois, and then my dad was
16 born in 1965, in Chicago, Illinois.

17
18 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, so we're gonna start to get into it. Uhm Christen, who did you
19 grow up with?

20
21 Christen Weeden: So, growing up Our household was my mom, my dad and my sister.

22
23 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, what was your favorite thing to do with your mother?

25 Christen Weeden: Um, my mom's really crafty. So, we used to do a lot of crafts and playing
26 outside. So yeah, so yeah, a lot of crafts and artsy stuff. Making.

27

28 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, describe to me your closet growing up.

29

30 Christen Weeden: my closet has always been ridiculous. My mom has always been my
31 fashion inspiration. I've always had a million clothes and yet pretty much clothes
32 everywhere. That has never changed. Um, everything in every color. So yeah.

33

34 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, who are you closest to growing up?

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36 Christen Weeden: Definitely. I'd say my mom. I've always been pretty close with my mom.

37

38 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, what brings you joy?

39

40 Christen Weeden: I think seeing other people happy, or I'm just kind of little successes in my
41 life yeah, the little things.

42

43 Williams, La-Sheba: Um, what were your favorite hobbies or activities that you love doing
44 growing up?

45

46 Christen Weeden: I did since the time I was three all through high school. So definitely
47 dancing and playing outside. I did competitive dance for probably six years to where you're
48 pretty much always going to dance competitions, going to practices going to rehearsals. We

49 used to do local ballets. And then yeah, playing outside a lot. We had basketball hoop, a
50 trampoline, pool, so I was I was outside a lot growing up.

51
52 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, how did your mentors play an important role in your life? I
53 know You said that your mentor, one of your mentors is your mother. So how did she play an
54 important role in your life?

55
56 Christen Weeden: I think she's really helped shape who I am. I'm very much like she is. Our
57 personalities are very, like we get along really well. So, I think she's really shaped me and
58 kind of given me an inspiration to who I want to grow up to be. So yeah, she's just so she's
59 always she's also a really good listener and she's just been there my whole life.

60
61 Williams, La-Sheba: That's inspirational. What are some fashion styles you follow?

62
63 Christen Weeden: Um, I'm not the trendiest person. So, I go to I go with, I end up going with
64 trends later. Um, but definitely when I started at American Eagle, I started picking up on
65 more trends that I used to hate like I used to hate jean jackets. I'm currently wearing a jean
66 jacket. Um, so yeah, I've kind of picked up on a little bit more trends, but I'm, my style is on
67 the safer side versus being really trendy. I like to watch the trends and see what they are, but
68 a lot of the times, I'm worried if I can pull it off or things like that. So yeah, I'm on the safer
69 side, but I do try to follow what's happening currently.

70
71 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, so we're gonna kind of shift gears a little bit. What were your
72 expectations when you graduated from high school?

74 Christen Weeden: So, when I graduated from high school, I kind of had my plan, all laid out
75 of graduating in four years, I had just started my job with American Eagle. I'm still with them
76 today. I started march of my senior year of high school. Um, I actually didn't think that I
77 would end up staying with them as long as I did or moving up. I kind of thought I would you
78 know, stay as a sales associate or kind of out job because that is my only the only job that
79 I've ever had. But I started as a sales associate. And then I moved up in one year to a
80 merchandise lead. So, I helped build the floor sets for the merchandise manager or with the
81 merchandise manager, and then less may so about a year ago, I moved moved up to a
82 merchant manager. So, going out of high school, I kind of had my plans laid out, but they did
83 shift a little bit.

84
85 Williams, La-Sheba: So, staying at American Eagle, do you think that that changed or
86 impacted what you wanted to do when you decided to come to Columbia College?

87
88 Christen Weeden: So, I actually had my plans for Columbia before I had started American
89 Eagle. Since I did start very late in my senior year. I actually knew When I was around the
90 ages of three to five that I was going to Colombia, because that's where most of my dance
91 teachers went. So, when I was little, it was always Colombia, Colombia, Colombia. I'm going
92 to be a dance teacher. And then when I shifted my major to fashion merchandising, it was
93 just the fit. Like it was just I always knew that it was gonna be the right fit. But yeah, I've
94 been talking about Colombia since I was probably five.

95
96 Williams, La-Sheba: Wow, that's interesting. Why did you, so you already told me why you
97 decided to go to Columbia College. But what do you like most about attending Columbia
98 College?

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100 Christen Weeden: I like that. It's different. Like there's everyone. Like, the courses are
101 different the people are different, like you're just surrounded by so many different

experiences. And I went to Catholic school my whole life. So, Columbia is a big shift like Catholic school is pretty. Like you do this. You do this now, like. And Columbia was a big shift, but it was a good shift. So yeah, I really liked the courses like I always talk about my science course I wasn't, I am not into science at all and I took my chemistry class was dyeing fabrics. And it was it's just really cool to be able to even in your Gen Ed's do things related to your major and I don't think most schools offer that like Columbia does.

Williams, La-Sheba: I agree. So, going to growing up in a Catholic school, um being strict. You say that coming to Columbia is like really good and really diverse. Do you have anything that you like least about Columbia?

Christen Weeden: Um, I think sometimes the communication isn't Always great, um, tuitions a little bit expensive. But as far as Columbia as a whole, I haven't had many issues. I haven't really had any classes that I didn't like or any professors that I didn't like. For the most part. It's been really positive. I'd say probably commuting has been the hardest part because I do commute from home. I never lived on campus. So, I say that that's probably the hardest part. But I do as much as it's a struggle to commute and you know, to work. Um, I do like the location of Colombia. I wouldn't change it being in the city.

Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, so we're gonna switch gears again. And we're gonna dive into the topic of this interview. When did you like first become aware of the Coronavirus?

Christen Weeden: I don't think I was overly aware until right Before Columbia close, so the day before Columbia decided to close was when our when my professors, sir I don't know when other professors started to talk about it when my professor started to talk about the possibility of closing was kind of when I got the initial shock of it being as serious as it was, like I'd seen you know, some stuff on social media or just some news articles but I hadn't

129 really known much about it and at that point, I wasn't really taking it seriously. I it was at that
130 point it to most people seemed like just a flu.

131

132 Williams, La-Sheba: Wow, in the early spread of the corona virus epidemic. Did you believe
133 the medicals recommendation and the news reports during that time?

134

135 Christen Weeden: I want to say no, because I wasn't taking it very seriously. I wasn't
136 completely blowing it off or disregarding things that were being said. But I wasn't taking it as
137 seriously as I do now or as I should have at the time.

138

139 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay. Um, where do you get your information about COVID-19?

140

141 Christen Weeden: Most of my information comes from social media, so Twitter or Facebook,
142 I don't watch the news a whole lot. So, a lot of it is online articles that I see.

143

144 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, let's switch gears a little bit. Um, do you believe our
145 generations response to initial warnings, kind of differs from older generations?

146

147 Christen Weeden: I definitely do. So, I think that our generation in the first place was a lot
148 more calm about it didn't really take it seriously, whereas the older generations are typically
149 more risk. So, they took it a little bit more seriously. But yeah, I don't think that our
150 generation took it. Seriously in the first place, and I think that that could have contributed to
151 some of the spread in the beginning, especially with spring breaks and everything.

152

153 Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah, so I'm talking about spring breaks. How do you feel about people
154 who were traveling during spring break?

155 Christen Weeden: I don't think that it was a wise idea. I at the time, you know, make jokes
156 about I'm gonna go on a trip. It's cheap, but I never actually had the desire or the time even
157 because I was working. Um, yeah, I don't agree with it. I think that it puts a lot of a lot more
158 people at risk then needed to be

159

160 Williams, La-Sheba: How were your spring break plans affected due to COVID-19?

161

162 Christen Weeden: My spring break plans actually went perfectly as planned because I
163 planned on getting some rest. Well, actually, I wouldn't say probably plan because I was
164 planning on working A little bit more, but my job was actually shut down by our spring
165 break. So, I did plan on getting some rest, which I definitely did because I was home the
166 entire time. So yeah, my I didn't have any actual plans, so they weren't altered at all, but I did
167 get to catch up on some sleep and get some stuff done. Get some spring cleaning done.

168

169 Williams, La-Sheba: That's good. I'm happy that you didn't have any mix ups. U'm Christian,
170 can you describe to me your current living situation?

171

172 Christen Weeden: So, I live with my mom and my boyfriend and then my sister just moved
173 out on Friday, so a few days ago. Um, so I did live with my mom, my sister, my boyfriend,
174 um, and then we have two dogs.

175

176 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, so did the announcement that the college would close did
177 that impact your living situation at all?

178

179 Christen Weeden: It did not. So, I was living at home prior to the school getting shut down. I
180 commute from home. So, I didn't actually have to move anywhere. But our shift came with

181 everyone being home when everyone being at home from work. It was a weird change
182 because we are typically all going in different directions at different times. And so, it was
183 kind of nice to actually get to spend some time together. Because we typically don't get, we
184 get about one day a week, maybe, if we're lucky.

185
186 Williams, La-Sheba: Wow. So, this goes to my next question. How has the pandemic
187 changed your relationship to your parents?

188
189 Christen Weeden: So, I just live in my mom, my parents got divorced about seven years ago.
190 So, I've gotten a lot. My mom and I are already close, but we've gotten to actually hang out a
191 lot more. We've been organizing and I'm going through some stuff. So that's been nice.
192 We've been able to actually spend some time together since we've been so busy. Um, so
193 yeah, we've gotten to spend a lot more time together. And then, as far as my dad, I haven't
194 really seen him much just because most things are shut down. But I do talk to him pretty
195 often.

196
197 Williams, La-Sheba: That's good. Um, so regarding to going out and shopping and having to
198 get your essentials, are there any precautions you take when going to the store?

199
200 Christen Weeden: I have not been as cautious as I should. I typically don't wear masks or
201 gloves when I go out which I know that I should. Um, but I have been, which is kind of
202 something weird. Like when I go to the grocery store and I'm getting produce typically
203 people will like, touch a few. Like, you know, if you're getting cucumbers, you'll like see
204 how they are and I've been really weird about like putting things back. Like if I grab it, it's
205 going in my cart. So I've been trying to be cautious about that to make sure that like I'm not
206 putting things back that I've touched For other people, but as far as like actually protecting
207 myself, I haven't been or protecting others, I haven't been as diligent as they should.

208 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, how do you react to those who are not practicing social
209 distancing?

210

211 Christen Weeden: I don't agree with people that are completely just disregarding everything
212 because I think that social distancing is very important, um, to stop the spread, because we do
213 need to take care of those that are more vulnerable and with me, like I have an autoimmune
214 disease, so I'm actually a little bit more susceptible. So, I really need to make sure that I'm
215 staying as far away from people as I can.

216

217 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, so has your family treated you any different knowing that you do
218 have a disease during this pandemic?

219

220 Christen Weeden: Um, I haven't really seen anyone other than those that I live with. But my
221 mom has been a lot more cautious about, like, if we go out that we're, you know, staying
222 away from people, we're being careful stuff like that. But no, I haven't really seen like
223 different treatment, just, you know, being more cautious.

224

225 Williams, La-Sheba: You know, we're going to switch a little gears here again. So, Christen,
226 where were you when you learned Colombia was transitioning to remote learning?

227

228 Christen Weeden: So, I was actually at work. And I was at the time that I got the email. I was
229 talking about how our professors had just told me the day before that there was talks that we
230 might the college was asking professors if they would be able to transition to online learning.
231 And at that point, it didn't seem like it was that high of a possibility that it would actually
232 happened and then the next day I was at work and I was talking about it. And then I got the
233 email that we were shutting down.

234

235 Williams, La-Sheba: How did your life change when going when Columbia switch to going
236 on online learning?

237

238 Christen Weeden: So online learning has been kind of a struggle for me because it was a little
239 bit of a challenge trying to find the motivation, especially after having a three week break
240 from classes, trying to find the motivation to pick back up and get my work done and also
241 having eight weeks of work crammed into six weeks. So yeah, it was definitely a challenge to
242 get back into it. And I'm also you know, being a fashion major, I had a fashion styling class
243 in a visual merchandising class that I was excited, really excited for both and they just,
244 though the professors have done an amazing job of transitioning, it's just not the same. Like
245 there's a lot that needs to be in person. And yeah, it was just kind of frustrating having that
246 taken away because it was, like two classes that I was very excited for. The I was just a little
247 bit challenging.

248

249 Williams, La-Sheba: We're going to jump back to that, um what how do you feel about the
250 pass and fail policy?

251

252 Christen Weeden: I personally don't want to take it. At this point. I'm doing pretty well in my
253 classes. So, I prefer to just take whatever grade I get. But I don't think that it's a bad option
254 for those that do choose to take it. But yeah, as far as myself, I have not chosen to take it. I
255 also would prefer to just see how I do. And get the grade that I'm gonna get.

256

257 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay, um, I know you talked about it was a disappointment with those
258 two classes. But as far as your creative work and getting your creative work done towards
259 your fashion merchandising major, what else? What other challenges did you face with doing
260 the creative work?

261 Christen Weeden: So, it's been a little bit difficult. So, for my styling class, we had to do a
262 still life. And then we had to do an editorial shoot, we just had to prep for it. We didn't
263 actually have to shoot with a model. We just had to find the clothes. So, it's been interesting
264 trying to find things around my house and find a place to shoot it. And because of my visual
265 merchandising class, we had to do these visual diaries, which was basically just a still life in
266 different themes. So, it's been interesting trying to find things. Find a setup trying to
267 maneuver around other people, um, it's been interesting, it's been a little bit of a challenge to
268 only be able to use things in your house because at this point most people don't want to, you
269 know, if it was a normal day, I'd go to Target and find something to add to it, but I'm trying
270 to stay home as much as possible has been difficult to try to get things done.

271
272 Williams, La-Sheba: And kind of piggybacking off of that, do you feel like being off campus
273 and being online? Do you feel like that affected your grade? And also, could you talk a little
274 bit more about your productivity during this time.

275
276 Christen Weeden: So, my productivity has gone way down, which I'm usually a
277 procrastinator, but it's gotten much worse. But as far as my grades, I feel like things have
278 been a little bit more lenient. In my classes, And I feel like some assignments have been
279 aside from final projects, some assignments have been either cut out or reduced. So that's
280 been nice but as far as like being back at work and trying to get things done has been difficult
281 even if I, you know, tried to do it a little bit ahead of time I'm exhausted or I'm, you know,
282 trying to help out with something and it's just been it's been rough.

283
284 Williams, La-Sheba: I can agree. So, talking about it, your productivity being rough and
285 switching to online learning. Um, have you dealt with any mental challenges during this time
286 of going online?

287 Christen Weeden: Not not really. Um, I do have mild anxiety. So that has been kind of
288 heightened but not as much with schoolwork I think it's kind of a combination of everything

289 of work of school and things being shut down of just kind of my routine being thrown off.
290 Um, but as far as anything serious, I haven't had many issues with mental health.

291

292 Williams, La-Sheba: That's great. Um, what are some like coping skills you deal with with
293 your anxiety that you're facing?

294

295 Christen Weeden: I've just been trying to set aside time for myself. Aside from homework
296 aside from things I have to do for work, I've just been trying to give myself time to either you
297 know, watch a show or do a face mask or even take a nap just trying to find time that I'm
298 doing something for me and not for something else. I mean, I am working towards my degree
299 that is for me, but as far as like doing homework I've been trying to, you know, give myself
300 just give myself a break and kind of telling myself like it's gonna be okay. You're doing the
301 best you can. Things like that.

302

303 Williams, La-Sheba: Thank you. kind of to lighten up everything. What has been your
304 favorite music to play during quarantine?

305

306 Christen Weeden: Oh, music. I kind of like a little bit of everything so its kind of depends on
307 what mood I'm in. Um, so I'll blast pop I'll blast hip hop, I'll blast country like I kind of
308 listened to everything. So, it kind of depends on what mood I'm in. Um, but I'd say probably
309 pop just like blasting the apple music today's hits. That playlist is kind of gets me in a better
310 mood.

311

312 Williams, La-Sheba: How are you and your project Professors communicating?

313 Christen Weeden: I've gotten pretty good communication through, you know,
314 announcements on canvas or through email. Some professors more than others, some
315 professor's kind of just give you your work for the week and then that's kind of it. Um, most

316 things have been pretty clear, but some of the guidelines for like, you know, discussion
317 boards or participation have been a little bit questionable. So, that's been a little bit
318 challenging to kind of navigate like, what do I need to do? What am I expected to do? Kind
319 of things like that, but as far as overall, it's been pretty good. And I've had a lot of professors
320 that are kind of on us and are, you know, sending several reminders and that definitely helps
321 me during these times.

322
323 Williams, La-Sheba: Thank you, um, during this time, you know, being online and being in
324 quarantine. Who do you talk to about your concerns mainly?

325
326 Christen Weeden: Um, I think my mom. Um, and because I've been back to work, but it's just
327 been myself and two other managers, we've been shipping out orders. So that's been kind of
328 nice. We've kind of just gotten to, you know, vent to each other and just be able to talk about
329 things that we normally don't get to talk about, like we've learned a lot about each other
330 through these times, because we don't normally have the time when the stores open to just,
331 you know, stand and talk while we're doing things. And it's been really nice to just have
332 people to kind of lean on and be able to express my concerns too, or just, vent to.

333
334 Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah, um, how did you feel about the transition and how Columbia
335 handled it moving to online learning?

336
337 Christen Weeden: I don't I understand that things had to move quickly, but I don't feel that
338 there was enough time given and I also don't agree with as much as I loved having a three
339 week break where I had nothing to do it just pushed everything into a shorter timeframe. And
340 I just don't i don't think that it was the best decision because it did put a lot more stress on us
341 like, you know, we had this nice break where we didn't have to worry about much Well, I
342 didn't I didn't have to move or do anything. So that was nice that I got a nice break from
343 working from school and a mental health break and then it just got all shoved into the last six

344 weeks. So yeah, it's been I'd say that that was my biggest concern is that we did have this
345 break and then it just, it just pushed everything it didn't really help much in at least in my
346 situation.

347
348 Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah. How has your outlook just switching gears a little bit? How has
349 your outlook on a equality changed during the pandemic?

350
351 Christen Weeden: So, I have been much more aware of the fact that I need to worry about not
352 only just myself, like when I'm my grandparents are both in their late 70s. So, you know, if
353 I'm going over there, I need to be very careful. And I need to make sure that I'm not going.
354 I'm not you know, running around to four different stores because they're much more
355 susceptible. So I've been much more aware of the fact that everything is not you know, about
356 me, and I need to also worry about others because I've seen a lot of the news saying, you
357 know, you might be healthy and you might be able to fight this but other people can't. So
358 that's kind of been a really big wakeup call of that, you know, I need to be aware of my
359 surroundings and I need to be aware of like what I could spread to other people?

360
361 Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah, definitely. Um, what is something you are most thankful for
362 during the pandemic?

363
364 Christen Weeden: I think just my family, they've really, you know, kept me sane and tried to
365 help me if I have projects or if I have if I'm just having a stressful day, they've been really
366 helpful.

367
368 Williams, La-Sheba: That's great. Um, what are your next steps financially and educationally
369 regarding the pandemic?

370 Christen Weeden: So, financially, I wasn't overly impacted. Um, so I was off work for about
371 a month. We got paid for about two weeks, and then I was able to qualify for unemployment
372 for two weeks. So that was really nice. That definitely helped. And especially with the cares
373 act of being unemployment, wasn't very financially impacted. I wasn't able to qualify for the
374 stimulus bill, but I was able to earn at least my normal wages. What was the second part of
375 the question?

376

377 Williams, La-Sheba: educationally?

378

379 Christen Weeden: So overall, I'm mostly just trying to get through this semester. And then I
380 have one more year left before I graduate. So, I've been trying to I've picked my schedule,
381 but I've been kind of worried in case because there's been talks of maybe the school won't
382 open next semester, well, not our school, but schools in general. Um, so that's been kind of
383 questionable because I do. I am interested in taking a sewing class next semester. So that's
384 not really something you can take online. Um, so I've just been kind of a little bit worried
385 about what the next steps are. Should this continue?

386

387 Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah, um, I know you talked about like having more time with your
388 family and friends, but has quarantine help you have more time to call your family and
389 friends from other places that don't live with you?

390

391 Christen Weeden: During the first few weeks, when I was actually home, I was able to, you
392 know, talk to my grandparents or talk to other family members. And I did I was able to talk
393 to my best friend a little bit more. She's away at college about four hours away and she has
394 an apartment. So, she's been staying there. But I have been able to talk to her a lot more. So
395 that's been nice.

396 Williams, La-Sheba: That's good. Um, when you first started hearing rumors about the
397 campus closure and other schools and classes moving online, what concerns started arising
398 for you personally and what worries did your friends have?

399

400 Christen Weeden: So personally, I was very worried about how my classes would transition
401 since I'm a fashion major didn't seem like it would be the best fit to transition to online.
402 Sorry, especially because we were in for my visual merchandising class, we were in the
403 middle of building a window. And you can't exactly do that from home. So that's been
404 challenging. And then I think as far as my friends like, I had a few friends that live that still
405 live downtown. Um, so I think that their concerns especially also being fashion majors were
406 a little bit similar of how we're going to transition to online.

407

408 Williams, La-Sheba: Okay. How do you think schools should accommodate to those who
409 come from low income backgrounds or if they should at all?

410

411 Christen Weeden: I think that the school definitely has the means to provide a little bit more
412 especially you know, helping with technology helping with housing, our tuition dollars, pay
413 enough that that they can help people that need it. Um I definitely feel that as it's important
414 that you know people that are paying to go there are also getting help in such a huge crisis.

415

416 Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah, I agree. How has connecting virtually affected you in any way?

417

418 Christen Weeden: Um, I've seen a lot more issues with technology on zoom calls and, you
419 know, being kicked out of presentations. I was on a zoom call today for a project and I was
420 on my phone at work. It was like a 15-minute zoom call. So, I just took a short break and I
421 was on it. And I got kicked out probably seven times and I it just kept reloading me. So, I've
422 seen a lot of issues with technology. On

Williams, La-Sheba: wow. I think we're all experiencing that some sort of technical technological problems. What problems? Well, you just spoke about that. So, let's switch gears a little bit. How are your initial reactions and experiences when you were furloughed for from American Eagle?

Christen Weeden: I was initially very worried. Well, I wouldn't say very worried I knew that you know, my mom would help me out if she had to. My main bill is my car payment. So, I was a little bit worried about paying for that I still live at home, so I don't have you know, a mortgage or rent. Um, so my like, highest bill is my car payment. I knew that if she needed help, or if I needed help that she would help me out because she was still working. She just moved to working remotely. So I was really worried that and I didn't know how long it was going to last if it was, you know, going to last two months that I've was going to be off work and not collecting a paycheck fortunately, it was only two weeks and I was able to collect unemployment but I was very worried and I was also frustrated and a little bit angry.

Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah, I think everybody has an experiencing things of such, we're going to jump into the reflection side of the interview. How will you prepare yourself in the future regarding pandemics?

Christen Weeden: I think as far as um, you know, when I have my own house or just now kind of stocking up on the basics um, you know, in this pin down like finding toilet paper was a struggle. So, I think having a little bit of a stock at home so that I am not worried about finding things and then maybe having some safety supplies, cleaning supplies are hard to find masks are hard to find. Um, yeah, I think as far as just preparing myself with, you know, the things that I have at home and kind of trying to prepare myself mentally, before things like this happen, or you know, in the early stages.

Williams, La-Sheba: Yeah, I'm piggybacking off of that, how did this epidemic make you reevaluate your position in society?

451 Christen Weeden: So, I That's a tough question.

452

453 Williams, La-Sheba: Um, like not being able to get those essentials and things being ran out.
454 How did you feel about that?

455

456 Christen Weeden: That definitely worried me. Um, you know, especially in the early stages,
457 when you could go to, you know, four or five different stores and you could, you know, just
458 walk in, there weren't lines or anything. Still not being able to find things was very worrying.
459 It also made me think and made me more conscious of like, you know, if I'm going to a store,
460 I'm getting one of each thing that I need. I'm not, you know, taking more than what I need.
461 Um, because you know, if I can't find this, neither can someone else. So, I think that that's
462 really opened my eyes to only taking what I need and not buying an excess.

463

464 Williams, La-Sheba: Yes, that's important. How can we try to protect the less fortunate when
465 something like this big hits and turns some people inward? How do we preserve kindness
466 during these times?

467

468 Christen Weeden: I think we all need to remind ourselves that it's it's not about us. Yes, we're
469 going through it too, but it's not it's not about us someone pretty much always has it worse
470 than us. Like, I think that, you know, doing as much as you can like, you might think that,
471 Oh, I'm short on money, but someone else is worse off you can. Most of the time, you can
472 help a little bit. And so I've been really trying to remind myself of, you know, help as much
473 as you can donate as much as you can do things further. Even you know, smiling at someone
474 in the grocery store can help it can brighten their day a little bit. In these tough times.

475

476 Williams, La-Sheba: Yes, I do agree with that. It's nice to see someone smile. When what
477 changes do you hope this will lead to?

478 Christen Weeden: I think as far as changes, I think kindness I think people looking out for
479 each other because especially in the beginning of this, no one was looking out for each other.
480 They were looking out for themselves. They were buying in excess. They were, you know,
481 being rude, they were pushing people out of the way. to get to toilet paper. Um, I think as far
482 as changes is just being kind and also, you know, even in flu season, being careful being
483 cautious of what you do because there are people that won't survive it. So just being extra
484 careful around those who are more susceptible.

485
486 Williams, La-Sheba: Yes. Do you think Columbia should have done anything differently in
487 regards to moving online?

488
489 Christen Weeden: I think that there should have been more of a plan in place and things
490 should have been thought out a little bit better. Um, like I talked about earlier with the break.
491 I think that it it probably was very helpful for some people but it also pushed a lot of work
492 into a few weeks in it probably put a lot of stress on a lot of people and also Those that had to
493 move out. I think that Columbia should have done more with trying to help people find
494 housing or, you know, giving out which I don't know if they've given any money back for no
495 housing costs or meal plans or anything, but I think as far as helping out their students and
496 being more open and honest with their communication.

497
498 Williams, La-Sheba: Yes, um, if you could say anything to President Kim, what would you
499 say?

500
501 Christen Weeden: I would just say that we need more communication. And we need people
502 to be honest with us, especially during times like this, we just need the truth and what's going
503 to happen and we need, we kind of need a plan of you know, what, what are the next steps
504 for this? We don't, we don't, which most people don't know, at this point, what's going to
505 happen next, but I think as far as you know, being really transparent and giving us that

communication. I think that's what we really need and also, whatever help, they can give students whatever, you know, funds they can come up with or you know, starting fundraisers starting or anything like that to help you know, those that have been affected by this.

LA-Sheba Williams: Christen How do you feel about the future?

Christen Weeden: I am very uncertain about the future since they don't know what's going to happen I'm also very anxious because my job may be reopening in possibly a week because Indiana where I'm at is able to reopen next Monday so it just kind of depends on if our mall will reopen so I'm a little bit worried about that and also how people are going to act if people are gonna follow safety guidelines how you know myself and my health are going to be affected if people don't

LA-Sheba Williams: I know you're talking about like how people will act do you feel like people would act differently when things open up?

Christen Weeden: I'm a little bit worried about the kindness aspect and people having patience and you know there's a lot more cleaning processes that we have to go through there's a lot more distance that we need to put between people you know we have to move a lot of fixtures out of our store so that there is 6 feet between people and I'm just worried about how the reaction to that will be

LA-Sheba Williams: You know last question and closing what was the most significant change in your life due to the virus?

531 Christen Weeden: I think just not being at work and trying to transition to online school I had
532 a lot of changes all at once you know my whole family was home and I was trying to
533 maneuver online classes trying to find my way in that and then also the uncertainty of not
534 working and how I am going to pay my bills and what's going to be next when are we gonna
535 reopen what's that gonna look like , so I think there's just been a lot of uncertainty so that has
536 been interesting.

537

538 LA-Sheba Williams: Thank you so much Christen for your time and for answering questions.