INTERNATIONAL 12/11/20 B.SHEPHERD

For international students, this year has been a challenge as they experience life abroad much differently than they envisioned. Brooke Shepherd has the story.

MP3 RUNS: 1:13 O/C: I’M BROOKE SHEPHERD

BROOKE SHEPHERD: THE PANDEMIC LEADS TO MANY UNCERTAINTIES FOR STUDENTS ENTERING THE JOB MARKET. INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PRIYA CHAUDHARY (CHAWD--DREE) IS IN THE COMPUTER SCIENCE GRADUATE PROGRAM AT UW-RIVER FALLS. CHAUDHARY SAYS THE UNIVERSITY TOLD HER SHE HAD TO GRADUATE THIS SPRING, AND SHE HOPES TO FIND A JOB IN THE U.S.

PRIYA CHAUDHARY: I WAS EXTENDING MY PROGRAM, TAKING SOME OF THE UNDERGRAD CLASSES, BUT NOW THEY TOLD ME I HAVE TO GET GRADUATED IN SPRING SO JUST TO FIND A JOB I’M MOVING TO CALIFORNIA. I HAVE A LOT OF FRIENDS THERE AND MOST OF THEM ARE IN THE I.T. DEPARTMENT ONLY.

BROOKE SHEPHERD: JAMAL TEYMURLU IS A PHYSICS MAJOR FROM AZERBAIJAN. HE IS A JUNIOR, AND RETURNED TO THE U.S. THIS FALL WITH HOPES THAT THE PANDEMIC WOULD SOON BE UNDER CONTROL.

JAMAL TEYMURLU: I WANTED TO GET AN INTERNSHIP THIS JANUARY BUT NOW THERE’S NO APPLICATION. THE JOBS ON CAMPUS HAVE GONE DOWN TOO BECAUSE OF THE TIGHT BUDGET, WHICH IS UNDERSTANDABLE.

BROOKE SHEPHERD: TEYMURLU SAYS HE FEELS HE IS NOT GETTING THE SAME QUALITY OF EDUCATION THAT HE EXPERIENCED IN YEARS PRIOR. FOR FALCON NEWS SERVICE, I’M BROOKE SHEPHERD.

In a typical semester at UWRF, over 100 international students are enrolled. This year, the enrollment numbers dropped to 45 students, according to Vanessa Luther, the coordinator of international student and scholar services.

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