

Keep Working

Students transition from internships to essential employees

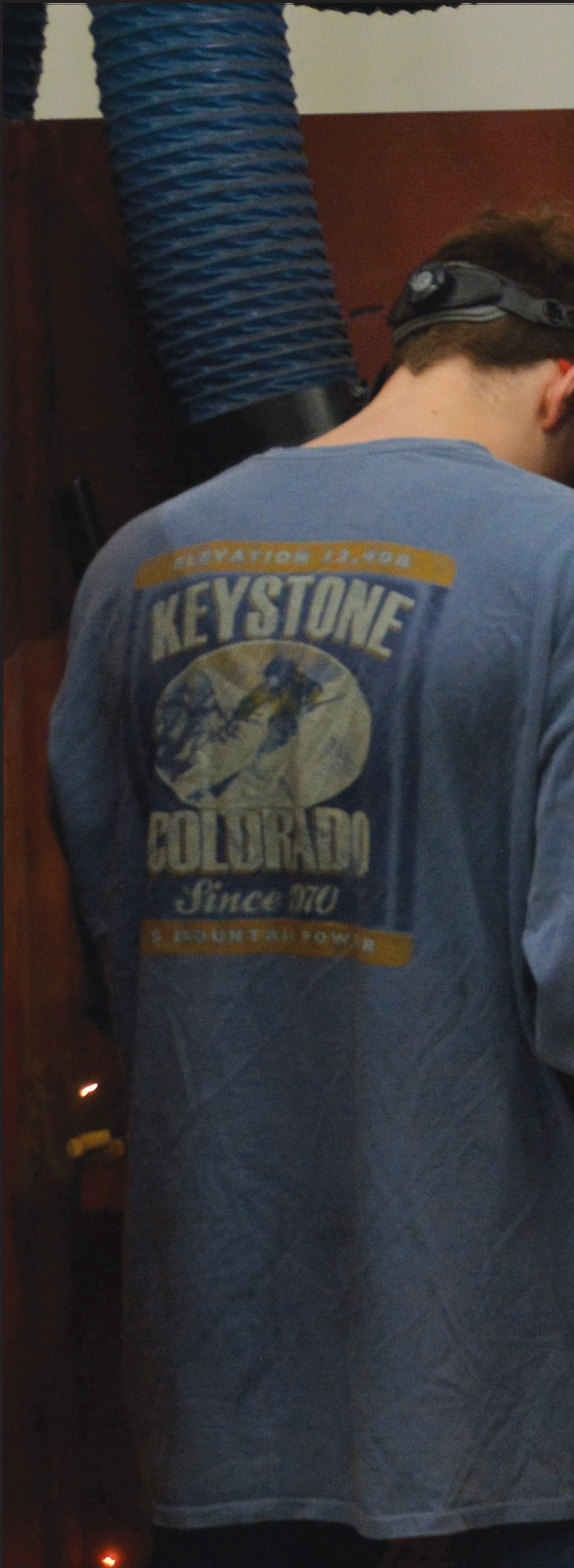
After completing a transaction with a customer at the Grimes Medicap, senior Ragavi Chandrashekarán used the hand sanitizer. “We have to use hand sanitizer after every transaction,” Chandrashekarán said. “And, we put credit cards in our system so we don’t have to ask for it and exchange germs so we can pull it from the system.”

Students who participated in the School to Work class faced new and unforeseen circumstances when the school district and many businesses shut down during the COVID-19 pandemic. Most students in the class were unable to continue their internships due to the partial lock down of the state in March. However, because the class earned DMACC credit, students were required to keep participating. Teacher Kayla Bousum said students completed work at home like updating their resumes, adding to their LinkedIn profile, answering journal questions, and doing projects.

The class met at the high school the first nine weeks in the fall. Then, students were to complete a certain number of hours the first semester and a total of 60 hours on the job during the second semester. “I was worried about how students would complete the required hours when school was not in session,” Bousum said. “Eventually, DMACC gave us the guidance that the already acquired hours would be enough. I was very relieved!”

Chandrashekarán’s medical internship was considered essential. She became a paid employee and stopped under the School to Work program. The state and the Iowa Board of Pharmacy required many changes to the store. “We closed our lobby, we stopped taking signatures and we initialed for patients now,” Chandrashekarán said. “We’ve been using masks and offer a lot more deliveries.” Medicap was busier because they had a drive through and people did not want to go inside pharmacies due to the outbreak.

Senior Sachlin Kaur also kept working as a bank teller at West Bank. Like Medicap, the bank completely shut down the lobby and became drive through only. Kaur said it did get super busy to the point where lines were forming around the store. She kept working because she enjoyed the bank. “Everyone treated you like family, my coworkers had to have been the best coworkers I have ever had,” Kaur said.



8th PERIOD



Working hard on a matching game during French 4, senior Emma Renaud and sophomores Kathryn Christy and Abby Maitre piece together information about the French Renaissance. Students in French 4 learned about the cultural content that surrounds France and its people as well as the history of the country. Photo by: Maddie Loggins

Story: Maddie Loggins
Captions: Maddie Loggins
Layout: Taryn Mock

Job # 3292 School Johnston High School

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