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Graduation during the COVID-19 pandemic

Kaisa Siipola

Name for posting: Kaisa Siipola

Relationships to EWU: alumni

Additional information: pronouns she/her. Graduating from the University of North Dakota in Spring 2022

Your experience during COVID-19: Hello Everyone, my name is Kaisa Siipola and I was in the graduating class of 2020. I graduated with a double major in Africana Studies and Communication Studies (emphasis in Public Relations) and a minor/certificate of Disability Studies. Unfortunately we did not have the opportunity to gather at the Spokane Arena, hugging hand in hand as we celebrated our accomplishments. Each person dealt with the news of graduation in their own way, we had Eagle Grit, and the tenacity to finish strong during these tough times or also known as Zoom University. I can't speak for everyone on how they celebrated their accomplishments during the pandemic. However, as for me, I celebrated with the amount of people that we could have at the house according to the CDC guidelines. Before the company arrived, I began my day with having a Zoom call with my aunts and uncles from the east coast. Then my mom and dad took pictures of me around the house in my gap and gown, and cords/medallion. I also walked down the stairs to throw my cap in the air while my mom filmed me which is as close as I was going to get. Once company arrived we had burgers, drinks, and a lot of laughs with what we had to work with during uncertain times. The ceremony taught me that I didn't need a big crowd to recognize my accomplishments, I was eternally grateful to have the family and friends that were able to attend. (Below are a couple of pictures of me in my cap and gown and the mask was from @Haleyalexisstyles)



