

# Jennifer Creasey Interview

Assistant Vice President of External and State Relations, Office of External Relations and Communications, University of Illinois System

Thursday, February 23, 2023 11:59AM • 41:38

## **SPEAKERS**

Jennifer Creasey, Inbar Michael

**Inbar Michael** 00:01

Okay, great. So my name is Inbar Michael, and I'm a graduate student representing the University of Illinois Archives, and I will have my interviewee introduce themselves.

**Jennifer Creasey** 00:16

Me?

**Inbar Michael** 00:17

Oh, yes, please go ahead.

**Jennifer Creasey** 00:18

Oh, I'm sorry I thought you said your intro, I apologize. My name is Jennifer Creasey. And I'm the Assistant Vice President of External and State Relations in the Office of External Relations and Communications for the U of I System [University of Illinois System].

**Inbar Michael** 00:32

Great. Thank you. Just for some housekeeping. Today's date is Thursday, February 23, 2023. We're here in the University Archives on Zoom, to discuss the U of I System's responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, for inclusion in the University of Illinois COVID-19 Documentation Project. Okay. So we'll have like a couple of warm up questions, just like some like clarifying questions, things like that. Then we'll talk more about U of I and SHIELD, and then we'll like winddown with some final questions. That's just kind of how the format will be. So the first question is, we want to know a little bit more about the department that you work for? Is it like a long-standing department or something that's developed more recently? And then additionally, what are some of the primary functions or goals of that particular department?

**Jennifer Creasey** 01:28

Yeah. So we work in the Office of External Relations and Communications in that is formally known as the Office of Governmental Relations. So OGR has been a long-standing office within the system. I mainly focus on state relations. So our job is to represent the entire system to all things state and local government. So I, my team and I are the liaison between university officials and our elected leaders. We weigh in on pieces of legislation on behalf of the university and speak for the university and all things state relations.

**Inbar Michael** 02:16

Okay, so just to clarify, you said, OGR, what does that stand for? Just so when we make the translation-

**Jennifer Creasey** 02:26

The Office of Governmental Relations.

**Inbar Michael** 02:28

Okay, a little bit about COVID now. Do you remember the first time you heard about the emergence of COVID-19? Like, around what time? What were your thoughts about it?

**Jennifer Creasey** 02:49

Yeah, so I think it was probably, I don't know, early 2020. When we started hearing about this Coronavirus idea coming from Asia, so China and Singapore. President Killeen is on the University of Singapore board. So I think he was familiar with how the University of Singapore was reacting to the virus over there. And it was just kind of mind blowing, like, you know, they were talking about splitting up into groups and staying away from each other and all that. And it was one of those things where you never really think that's going to happen here. I can remember hosting a legislative breakfast, it was probably February 2020, if I would guess, January, February, and with UI Health, our hospital system, and we handed out little pens of hand sanitizer, and you know, I think we thought we were being cute. And you know, just a few weeks or a month later, like that was a necessity. Those hand sanitizers came into handy when there was all of a sudden a shortage. So it was very quickly I think it came you know, as this like, weird idea. And then all of a sudden it was here, I can remember hearing that was hear is that what you're asking too? Or?

**Inbar Michael** 04:17

Sorry, one more time.

**Jennifer Creasey** 04:18

I said do you want to- I can remember when it actually was like coming to Illinois as well. And like, when where I was then?

**Inbar Michael** 04:27

Oh, yeah definitely. Like we just like, curious like about, like, your initial thoughts like about the whole thing. Yeah.

**Jennifer Creasey** 04:33

Yeah. So again, I think President Killeen and a lot of university leadership, they are scientists. So they took this very seriously when they knew what was coming,

**Inbar Michael** 04:46

Right.

**Jennifer Creasey** 04:47

So I can remember being at the Board of Trustees meeting in Champaign-Urbana, and then canceling the Big Ten tournament and that's when it was like, wow, this is real. And then right away at that Board of Trustees meeting. At the time, Provost Andreas Cangellaris and some other university leadership are already huddled up to figure out how the university could help predict what was coming, and what they needed to do to prepare. So it seems like things move very quickly after that board meeting. So what that was probably a March meeting, maybe I have to look at the calendar. But I assume it was March.

**Inbar Michael** 05:35

Okay. So right around the time that things kind of closed up as well.

**Jennifer Creasey** 05:39

Yeah, it was like right before that, and like, all of a sudden things move very quickly.

**Inbar Michael** 05:45

Great, so kind of in relation to the previous question, but do you recall the responses of your department as they heard about the progression of COVID-19? Like, prior to lock down? Were there things that your department like kind of became more aware of or like, was following with following up with?

**Jennifer Creasey** 06:08

Yeah, so um, I think my department's pretty unique in the fact that, yeah, as our university leadership and the scientists were figuring out what was happening, we were working with the governor's office very closely to let them know what the scientists were saying. So I think our reaction or you know, our role was really to serve as that liaison with the state leadership, and make sure that the governor's office had all of the correct scientific information in order to make the right decisions on behalf of the state. So I am the one who emailed the report from our modelers at UIUC, that predicted, you know, if the state shutdown on this day, then this many lives would be saved. If they waited a few weeks, then this many lives would be lost, and so forth, and so forth. And, and that's the report that ultimately shut the state down, I think at first, you know, we worked with them. And then they made the decision to shut down K-12 schools. We worked with them to have all of the universities go online, and we presented that research to our colleagues at the other public universities. And then ultimately, the modelers recommended The Stay At Home order. So, you know, I think from there, we all started working from home, almost right away, but we were working, kind of non-stop, just because things were going so fast. And were so important. That, you know, even when you're home, we were kind of like crazy hours working. So just to get everything implemented.

**Inbar Michael** 07:59

Yeah. We've heard from like, a couple of other people that we've interviewed, like, the same thing is like, working crazy hours, like, from like, six to like 10. Like, was that kind of like what was your schedule? Like [inaudible]-

**Jennifer Creasey** 08:13

Yeah, I mean, it kind of was just as things were developing, just kind of always being, you know, glued to your computer and phone and what was going on, and again, making sure that the state had the

right information, and that we were also working with the state to correctly go online, and you know, that everyone was in constant communication. So yeah, it was nuts.

**Inbar Michael** 08:36

Okay, great. Thank you. Um, the final warm up question that I have was, Do you remember your last day on campus before going into lockdown? And can you describe how you felt and how those around you were feeling? And I also understand if like, you didn't know, it'd be your last day? And so like, we don't recall them, but like, just curious.

**Jennifer Creasey** 08:58

Yeah, so it was at that that board meeting. I think right after that board meeting, the President's office and our communications team and the Chancellor's- all three Chancellor's huddled up in the President's conference room to kind of figure out how we were going to communicate what was next to the university community. And I think that was kind of the last time we were in person and not really knowing now I live and work in Springfield, Illinois in a satellite office. But even then, I think from that board meeting, we went home and then didn't go you know, didn't leave home for a long time. So I don't think anyone knew anywhere what was going to happen we legit thought we were just home for a few weeks. And that we were like, you know, being overly cautious. And then, you know, slowly as as things you know, they shut down restaurants and bars, you know, as things one by one. Shut down like you And then schools and all that it was just a very crazy time and it's like almost like having whiplash. Yeah.

**Inbar Michael** 10:07

So okay to clarify you said- so you just- so in working for the U of I, you don't have- You're not like at any particular campus. So you just happen to be in Springfield.

**Jennifer Creasey** 10:18

I happen to be in Champ- in Urbana. Yeah. At that board meeting. Yeah, we so yeah, since we're in the system office, we have an office here in Springfield across the street from the State Capitol. And then we also have an office at HAB [Henry Administration Building] in Urbana, and then an office at UIC [University of Illinois Chicago] as well, so my team's kind of all spread out. But so we're unique in the fact that we were kind of like, used to being remote and all of that, but [even to] actually be home and yeah, not go back. That was, yeah, we didn't realize that.

**Inbar Michael** 10:50

Yeah. Okay, great. So our first question for like the U of I and SHIELD questions. How did priorities within your department shift with the emergence of COVID?

**Jennifer Creasey** 11:06

Yeah, I think right away, we were just in wanting to be in partnership and in working with the Governor's office and the State of Illinois. So again, relaying any of our research, connecting them with the right scientists on campus so that they were making informed decisions. And then it slowly turn- not slowly, then it quickly pivoted to other teams on how they could help the state. So the state quickly needed PPE and things like that. So we organized our network that's called the Illinois Innovation Network that

we run with all of the other public universities to do an all call for PPE to make sure everyone was providing that. And then, we worked with I think the IBRL [Integrated Bioprocessing Research Laboratory] on campus, they quickly pivoted to making hand sanitizer, so we were helping get that out. There was the engineering department, they came up with a self- I don't know what I- can't remember, like building or deflating, inflating ventilator like a portable ventilator? Yeah. So we worked to offer that to other places throughout the state, the Governor's office, I think, ultimately, they really benefited from that overseas in India. And then, yeah, and then it turned into the SHIELD kind of emerged from that months later. But I think the, you know, ideas were planted right away. I mean, we are the public land grant university. So I think our faculty was kind of like, what, what can we do to help?

**Inbar Michael** 12:55

Right. With these priorities shifting, were there any partnerships that were not able to be pursued due to the pandemic? And then if so, were you able to pick them up later on? Or did the focus of your department kind of like permanently shift?

**Jennifer Creasey** 13:17

No, I think our department is state relations. So just working with the state, I think it strengthened our relationship with the state. You know, some things did get set aside, just like everyday legislation and session and all of that, and that was legislative session that is working with the Illinois General Assembly. And that was easily picked up.

**Inbar Michael** 13:42

Okay. I was mainly curious, because I had seen there was an article about how you had gotten a new position in April last year, and it talked about, like, the different partnerships that you'd be facilitating. So I wasn't so sure if it was also like, not just like state, but also like other things. And so I was wondering if that was also like, kind of earlier on, so that's why I was curious.

**Jennifer Creasey** 14:11

Oh, yeah. No, that was kind of a separate thing that we reorganized. Yeah.

**Inbar Michael** 14:16

Okay, cool. So, I know you said SHIELD emerged in the upcoming months. When did you begin to collaborate with SHIELD? And then like, what did that work look like?

**Jennifer Creasey** 14:31

Yeah, I think kind of right away. We were keeping the Governor's office updated on the team's thoughts, you know, and what they were trying to pull together throughout the system. You know, we had the modelers that UIUC, that were already working with the Governor's office. We had the epidemiologists up at UI Health that were being called on for their opinion. And then of course, the researchers and scientists at Urbana-Champaign and the College of that med with the PCR [Polymerase Chain Reaction], so that team quickly got pulled together and I was, again, just keeping the governor's office updated on what they were working on. I think once they really figured out that this test was groundbreaking, then it really ramped up, it seemed like this, the state and the Governor's

office, they were, you know, supportive right away and saw the benefit of what the university was bringing.

**Inbar Michael** 15:32

So were you helping to- so cause I know that you talked about facilitating, like being like a liaison between the university and the Governor's office? So were you also kind of in- updating the Governor's office? Were you facilitating a business growth for SHIELD- well SHIELD T3 I believe considered a business.

**Jennifer Creasey** 16:00

Yeah, that came kind of later. Right away, it was just kind of like this test and how do we get it to the world. And then it was did I think SHIELD Illinois and SHIELD T3, then it was like figuring out how you know what's next. And of course, we wanted to, we were, we gave the plans away on how to build the machines for free. And then we wanted to provide that to the people of Illinois for free in partnership with the state. And then [SHIELD] T3 came out of how we could do it for other people outside of the state if they weren't able to do it themselves. So it kind of all evolves.

**Inbar Michael** 16:47

Okay. Are there any, like specific I guess, examples of a time where like, you were updating the governor's office about what was going on with SHIELD? Yeah, like any sort of like, I guess progress that was being made and like how do you go about like updating such as like emails or like you have meetings together? Like how does that look like?

**Jennifer Creasey** 17:14

Yeah, so especially when the SHIELD team was getting the FDA approval, so the preliminary approval and then ultimately the EUA [Emergency Use Authorization]. I was in constant communication with them then Deputy Governor of Education, Jesse Ruiz, and mostly by phone, he and then he was updating the governor. So they really wanted to use the test or roll out the test in Illinois, but of course it needed FDA approval and all that. So it was it was a lot of phone calls and just communication on what was going on and so forth. Progress Reports,

**Inbar Michael** 17:59

Okay. So, additionally, from what I have read, I saw you're listed as a SHIELD external stakeholder is that correct? Okay. Is that kind of like what you've been explaining to me already? Or like, Are there different responsibilities with being an external stakeholder?

**Jennifer Creasey** 18:30

Yeah, I think that yeah, that's- I was kind of yeah the go between them and government. Yeah.

**Inbar Michael** 18:38

Okay. So I guess this question was kind of already answered. But I had a question about like, facilitating advancement of strategic initiatives. Were you doing that with SHIELD? Is that kind of like what you've been explaining?

**Inbar Michael** 18:54

Okay. Additionally, how did your work with SHIELD shift over time? So I know that there's a lot of facilitating but now with- I believe SHIELD is starting to wrap things up like have things shifted like, you know, from the beginning to the middle to like towards like the end right now with SHIELD.

**Jennifer Creasey** 18:54

Yeah.

**Jennifer Creasey** 19:19

Yeah. I think you know, it ultimately became kind of its own well oiled machine. You know, at one time I was spending a lot of lot of time on it. And then once it once the EUA was approved, and then we rolled it out. They kind of again, they were able to go about their business themselves. We still have well, we used to have weekly meetings with the Governor's office and then the Chicago Mayor's office. We still have regular updates with the Governor's office but I think it's slowly pivoting. But as the as SHIELD Illinois especially was built it kind of they were able to kind of figure out their business model and do their thing. So I was just the liaison. So yeah, it was less and less work, or hours spent, I should say.

**Inbar Michael** 20:24

Okay, um, what were some challenges that you ran into while working with SHIELD? Or like more in general, within the role that you occupy? Like, during this timeframe?

**Jennifer Creasey** 20:39

Would you say it again? I'm sorry.

**Inbar Michael** 20:40

Oh, sure. Um, what challenges did you run into while working with SHIELD? Or within the role that you occupy now?

**Jennifer Creasey** 20:48

Yeah, just kind of like, I guess the biggest challenge was things needed to happen right away, you know, everything was moving so quickly. And we needed to make sure that we were taking the proper steps not to rush anything. So it was kind of trying to calm people down. And, you know, just relay the right information and just make sure that lines of communications were open, cause there was a lot of things happening quickly.

**Inbar Michael** 21:36

So I was wondering, so you recently well recently, within the last year accepted a new role, and I was wondering if that role has, like any, I guess, responsibilities that are related to dealing with COVID? Or is it more about facilitating, like strategic initiatives? That was like, the main thing I saw I wasn't unsure if you're, if that role, like still has like, still has things to do related to the pandemic? Or it's more focused on business and things like that?

**Jennifer Creasey** 22:13



Um, yeah, I think the pandemic stuff has kind of wound down a little bit. My role now, we reorganized within the system office. And, and I think it's to acknowledge that what we do is more than just state relations is kind of all things, external relations and SHIELD's a really good example. You know, working with the K-12, schools, working with the City of Chicago, working with external businesses that wanted the testing are things that I helped with, but that just kind of evolved as we reorganize. But now I don't think yeah, now it's not so much. I mean, I'm in regular contact with the SHIELD leadership and so forth and but we don't have as much to do now.

**Inbar Michael** 22:59

Right. Okay. so these are- I'm kind of squaring off some of the questions I wrote because I have talked with another interviewee about K-12. But he also mentioned businesses, so I'm kind of curious about that. They said you worked with them to get access to testing and things like that. What was- like within External Relations how does that work? Like, what are the processes?

**Jennifer Creasey** 23:25

Well, it was mainly like, especially in Chicago, where some of these bigger companies were wanting to open back up or figuring out how they could open back up downtown. And, you know, us being connected to these people through the mayor's office. And just kind of, you know, showing them like how it would work, or, you know, I don't think many businesses in Chicago took us up on it, because it was still too early, you know, to figure out how to get people back, but just making those connections. And then outside of the state, that's how T3, came about, I wasn't as much a part of that. But I know a lot of that was like alums reaching out and so forth, wanting to get their people back to work. And I think we were option on how to do that.

**Inbar Michael** 24:20

How about, like, within schools? I know, schools are tricky, because there's like public and private and there's different like regulations. And then that's like-

**Jennifer Creasey** 24:31

Yeah, a lot of that was facilitated through the Governor's office. So yeah, it was me working with the Deputy Governor of Education. And he connected us with well, we work really closely with all of the other public universities, so they were the first ones to get testing and the state would help pay for that. And then also, the Governor's office is the one that set up the K-12 testing. So it was a true partnership. Along those lines.

**Inbar Michael** 25:04

Were there any challenges with that? I feel like I, from what I've heard, there were kind of mixed responses depending on, I guess, like, the school like, again, I don't know- I know with K-12 that's probably more focused on public education. Cause I know private have different rules and things like that. But was there like a lot of interest from these schools? Or they didn't really want help from the state? Or how did that look like?

**Inbar Michael** 25:35



So overall, do you feel like this, like, cause you do a lot of like liaison work do you think that it help contributed to the success of SHIELD especially like working with the Governor's office? And this is like a, would you sort of like, go back- Would you go back and change anything? Or do you feel like everything worked out? In the long run?

**Jennifer Creasey** 25:35

Yeah, I think there was interest. You know, and I think the hard part is just kind of like, how does get it set up? You know, just the logistics of it, and SHIELD Illinois took care of all that. And then also to convince people that the test would help keep people safe. You know, some people were, yeah, more on board than others. Just kind of how, you know, the COVID world is in general, you know. But yeah, ultimately, I think that we showed that Illinois was a much safer place than anywhere else because of the SHIELD.

**Jennifer Creasey** 26:45

Well, I think working with the Governor's office was very important. And I think, you know, it, everything did work out. I think it really showed what the what it meant to be a research one university and of course, the U of I, we have two of them. At UIUC and UIC and just our role as the public land grant flagship on how, you know, we do give back to the state, we take that responsibility very seriously. So I think SHIELD was a really good illustration of that. And Deputy Governor Jesse Ruiz he was great to work with and I think really saw the value of what the university was bringing. So thanks to him, we were able to also get, you know, taken seriously or, you know, by the Governor and all that I think ultimately that's really helped build our relationships with the state.

**Inbar Michael** 27:49

Are you able to tell me a little bit about what Jesse Ruiz has done? I don't know how much- I know that you might not be. I don't know how much you know about him I'm just curious, because we were given some of his contact information, he never responded, totally fine. But I was kind of curious to get that more like, government side as well, in terms of like the response. So yeah-

**Jennifer Creasey** 28:11

You know, he's since has moved on to the private sector. But he was, you know, he was kind of my go to. So we were and he was like, my liaison to the governor. So him and I would talk all the time. And he would make sure that the governor saw, for instance, the research and the reports that were coming out of university, and then he took them seriously. So Jessie really helped kind of, yeah, validate everything that we are doing.

**Inbar Michael** 28:51

Okay, with these questions, do you feel like there's anything we didn't get to cover? Or that you would like to address regarding your work during the pandemic?

**Jennifer Creasey** 29:03

Let's try to think I mean, looking back, it was just all so crazy. And you know, I did- I printed out the email that I sent with the report that I hope to frame one day and, you know, in my office, because I

think that will be something looking back on my career that was really mind blowing, you know, just time.

**Inbar Michael** 29:28

When you say report is this-

**Jennifer Creasey** 29:30

Well like when we sent the research to the Governor's office that ultimately issued the stay at home order.

**Inbar Michael** 29:36

Okay. Is it possible to get a copy of this? Because we we're also collecting like documentation, and I feel like that would be-

**Jennifer Creasey** 29:46

Yeah, let me see if I can find it. Yeah.

**Inbar Michael** 29:53

So I know this interview was on the shorter end because I know we planned like hour and a half but I like really varies unusually with like [inaudible] person, it tends to be on the shorter side, but we try to accommodate just in case. But I do have some additional wrap up questions. So, first of all, this pandemic has been a roller coaster waves variants across the changing guidelines. Overall, like what do you think of the university's responses to the evolution of the pandemic?

**Jennifer Creasey** 30:22

I think yeah, I think the university's response is a model of what to do. If this would ever happen again, and hopefully it doesn't in our lifetime, but I think that it was wonderful to witness and be a part of, and, you know, reflecting on it again, just kind of mind blowing.

**Inbar Michael** 30:46

Yeah. This, I did ask about, like, challenging parts of like, your position. So now this question is more like, a general question. Like, what are some of the most challenging parts of working during the pandemic? Not just like, within your role, but like, I guess in relation to, you know, being at home, like President with family or like, other things like that, like, how was balancing all that? Like, what were some challenges?

**Jennifer Creasey** 31:19

Yeah, I think being at home just the crazy hours, I do have two little kids. So when they were home with their schoolwork, balancing you know, all of that. Again, looking back is just kind of nuts. And being inside all the time, and all that. I think when the pandemic started, I didn't have a home office. So I was like, you had a make shift. And then I quickly built an office and you know, that I still use to this day. So it just kind of how those things evolved. I think that was probably one of the most challenging and, you know, learning this new virtual world on how to navigate and still get worked done. Now-

**Inbar Michael** 32:06

If you don't mind me asking because we did do one interview where we interviewed a professor here at UIUC. And she also has like- well she has a kid that's like under five. But like, we also talked a little bit about how it was to navigate, like, being a full time, like having a full time job and also having children. So if you're, like, willing like to elaborate a little bit on that, like, how is that to have like two young children at home while you're also working a job with so many hours?

**Jennifer Creasey** 32:36

Yeah. I mean, it's kind of crazy. Thankfully, my husband was also home. And he is realtor, so he is slow. So he was able to help more with the schoolwork. But my daughter was in kindergarten, and my son was in second grade. So we would have to go to school and just pick up packets of worksheets, and stuff like that. And I'm not a teacher. And yeah, I was very busy with work. So just trying to make sure they got their schoolwork done and staying on top of it. And then you had to return the stuff to the school and it was just, it was difficult. And crazy. And you know, there's some worksheets that we just like didn't do you know, but I think that they they're all okay. Yeah.

**Inbar Michael** 33:28

It's interesting to see different state responses especially within the education system. Yeah. My sister was like in grade I think, at the time and I remember when I because I was in college and I stayed like in the dorms because they like cut the capacity to like have inside stayed. And I remember going home and we would make it like a little outing to go pick up the packet from school. Yeah, drive by with the car like it [inaudible] Yeah.

**Jennifer Creasey** 34:09

Yeah. And my kid's school wasn't really equipped with Zoom and I like I had to teach my son's second grade teacher how to use Zoom. Yeah. And like in his class just got on there to like say hello to each other. They didn't really use it for teaching they go to a private school so at the public schools in town, they were much more ready to pivot to the virtual options.

**Inbar Michael** 34:38

Yeah. My- the're definitely struggles I feel like with having young children on Zoom like my sister's teacher definitely tried to make it very entertaining, like a lot of experiments that you could just like easily use supplies at home to do, really nice. Yeah, that's always been super intriguing to me, especially having a much younger sibling like seeing how different it is. Because like, I feel like university- I don't want to say for all universities, but like, at my University like making the switch to online is easier just because we're all more independent? [inaudible] because we're all the majority of us are adults. But like younger children, it's like another story. Thank you for sharing. Overall has a pandemic changed your office's goals and priorities? I know you work with the state. So you mentioned you were still working with them. But like other things have those changed?

**Jennifer Creasey** 35:36

Um, yeah, I think it's helped tell our story a little bit better, because having this real life illustration on how research in the public university can help in in these situations. And I think in general, just like the whole world, we're more flexible on remote work. And then also just so we have offices, we have like

four different offices. And we almost see each other more on Zoom than we did before. Because before we would be more like on the phone. Yeah. So that's kind of helped things, and then help realize that you don't have to necessarily be at your desk to work. So I think that probably will be here forever.

**Inbar Michael** 36:25

So are you currently working remotely how does like how does your day look like now?

**Jennifer Creasey** 36:29

So I'm in my office now, because [inaudible] legislative session, but if they're, I do still work at home a couple days, it just everyday is a little different. And then I'm also on the road a lot to Champaign and Chicago, so it's kind of wherever but yeah, I definitely my home office is- And I have like the whole setup, you know, a very similar setup that I have in my real office and all that. So it's very- no, I think that will stay.

**Inbar Michael** 36:45

Yeah. Final question. Um, did you learn anything from this pandemic? Whether about yourself or your work? Or about the university in general?

**Jennifer Creasey** 37:11

Yeah, I'm sure I did. Enjoy anything. I'm always known how important the university is. And I think, you know, this, again, gave a real life example. I think the impact that the state also has on all of our lives, was also very apparent in just how you know how much they do for everybody, and how much we as people need to work together on that. And I yeah, it will be interesting to see just in the future, how this has changed generations permanently. On our work. I like to stay home more now than I did before. And, you know, have my family activities or, you know, my neighbors hang out with my neighbors rather than, like, go out to a big party or something.

**Inbar Michael** 38:05

Yeah. I've definitely noticed how much of a homebody I am, because, like, I, in my undergrad, I took like, maybe like, four or five classes and like rushing to them. Like this really intense and an online. Now I'm like, actually- because I told myself when I came here for my graduate degree, that I wanted to, like, do all my classes in person because I missed out because half of my time was online. And then I was like, you know what I actually like doing Zoom class.

**Jennifer Creasey** 38:36

It's kind of nice. Not having to get dressed or you know, get fancy. Yeah. [inaudible]. And then it will be really interesting to see, you know, the kids how that the long term or, you know, how if their generation is different at all.

**Inbar Michael** 38:55

Yeah, definitely. I actually, I was like, going off track, but I'll just share this, like, quick story. And we'll wrap up. Um, I worked at a high school last year during my gap year, and I worked with students that were going into ninth grade, so they were coming out of eighth grade. And already the impact of like, online learning was very apparent because a lot of those skills were lost because it's hard to stay

focused I feel like on a computer like you're not really changing your scenery, because, you know, you would switch- when you switch classes you walk between them in high school usually, this in California. But this was just like all on the computer and yeah, it was like a lot of like, catching them up, but it's it was very-

**Jennifer Creasey** 39:37

And I think you know, that's the same thing just within the workplace with meetings, right? Like there's no, like yeah moving to the next meeting, like turning your brain off and like pivoting to that like having to walk there. I've also noticed I've almost become addicted at multitasking. Because, you know, if you're on Zoom, you're able to check your text messages or email and you know, now that there's meetings are back in person you're like, actually have to stare at a person for an hour. And you know what I mean, like not check your email. And that's kind of weird too. And I have to tell myself to be more mindful. And yeah, not double or not multitask.

**Inbar Michael** 40:23

Yeah, definitely. Great. Thank you so much. Again, I know this is on the shorter end. So I hope that's ok.

**Jennifer Creasey** 40:32

Yeah no, definitely and if you need anything, please let me know.

**Inbar Michael** 40:37

Yeah, appreciate your time. And if you're able to find that document that you [inaudible].

**Jennifer Creasey** 40:42

I know I have it somewhere. So yeah, I'll search for it.

**Inbar Michael** 40:45

Great. Sounds good. Also, before we go, we usually ask if you're willing to send a professional headshots so we can include we were gonna upload transcription and the audio, of this so like there won't be a video, to the repository for like researchers use in the future. And also, did you sign the-

**Jennifer Creasey** 41:12

I did.

**Inbar Michael** 41:12

Okay great

**Jennifer Creasey** 41:14

I think I did it yesterday, but let me know if it didn't go through or something.

**Inbar Michael** 41:16

Okay, sounds good. All right. That is all I have. Thank you so much.

**Jennifer Creasey** 41:21

Ok well yeah. Thank you. Yeah, have a great day.