

Internship Spotlight

Jenna Sayler

Jenna Sayler is a Pathways intern from Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She graduated in spring 2024 with a bachelor's degree in metallurgical engineering and a ceramics minor from the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology. She is currently earning her master's degree in engineering management. As an intern at Marshall, she has been involved with many projects, including robotic welding, isometric drawing, and 3D printing ceramics.

She is part of the Nonmetallic Materials and Space Environmental Effect group responsible for supporting, directing, and conducting nonmetallic material research and space environmental effects testing across the entire life cycle of space exploration hardware. Jenna also works with the Advanced Manufacturing branch, getting more acquainted with Marshall's various printing machines and robotics.



INTERNS AT MARSHALL GET TO TAKE ON THEIR VERY OWN PROJECTS.

“At Marshall, I am getting to take on a project of my own in the ceramics field. I work with a 3D-printing company that specializes in ceramics. I schedule all meetings and information sessions, procure the ceramic testing specimens, and schedule the various testing applications needed such as density, compression, tensile, and plasma torch testing.”



What inspired me to work at NASA?



I grew up with a mother who is a physical scientist with the U.S. Geological Survey, and I always heard about what was going on with the Landsat missions and other space-related events which is where my interest in the world of STEM and space began. At college, I got involved with the South Dakota Space Grant Consortium, and they really helped grow my interest in the pursuit of a career in space applications and more specifically with NASA. NASA has always caught my attention with their push for innovation and space exploration, but the opportunity of working with so many diverse careers all within one company that got me wanting to be a part of NASA's team.”

What are my hobbies outside of work?

I like to go hiking, rock-climbing, and caving/spelunking. I am a very creative person and have many artistic hobbies I enjoy as well, including glassblowing, lampworking, pottery, and watercolor.”



What is the best part of my internship?

“My favorite parts are the people who mentored and supported me, while giving me the opportunities to explore my own interests.”

MY PIECE OF ADVICE TO OTHER ASPIRING NASA INTERNS

-Jenna Sayler



“Help out with any research at your school that could set you apart from others and get involved with any projects that could show your teamworking abilities. NASA is one giant team, and nothing can be done alone, so showing that you have what it takes to be a part of a team and demonstrate your uniqueness and work ethic can get you far when being evaluated for an internship. Also look out for local Space Grant Consortiums to get involved in. You never know what connection or networking opportunity might help you later on.”