

## Camille Eddy Reaching for Success

As a fourth-year student in the mechanical engineering program, Camille Eddy is busy with classes, projects and being a champion of student leadership and diversity. A founding member of the Space Broncos student organization and a participant in NASA's Microgravity University program, she spent this past summer in California's Silicon Valley as an intern for Hewlett-Packard and is active in the Maker culture. In March, she was part of a team that competed for the \$1 million Hult Prize in San Francisco, Calif.

Somehow, she also manages to squeeze in travel and public events where she talks about space research opportunities, robotics and — her big passion — the importance of diversity in the higher education conversation. And you thought your schedule was hectic. So why cram so much into each and every day?

“Ever since I was a young girl, if I decided I wanted to do something I would just push and push,” she said. “Some doors closed for me, but others opened.” For example, she knew that one day she wanted to work in Silicon Valley. So she pushed and pushed until that opportunity became a reality with her internship at HP. Eddy introduces President Barack Obama during his 2015 visit to campus. Sometimes those doors stick a bit, but that hasn't proven to be a deterrent. For instance, as a freshman, she helped found the Space Broncos, now a university-recognized student organization. Terrified of public speaking, she practiced until she was comfortable enough to speak at a public uplink between Boise State University and the International Space Station. Just a few months later, as a sophomore, she introduced President Barack Obama to an audience of thousands during his January 2015 campus visit.

Her goal now is acceptance into Stanford University's graduate program and, eventually, an invitation to be a NASA astronaut. “But you need more than just good grades,” she said. “You need recommendations and connections.” For Eddy, her time here at Boise State University offers many ways to make those connections. “When you're a student, you're in a unique position,” she said. “You're not a child and you're not a professional. So you have some freedom. You can be an intern. You can step out of your defined space and try something new.” Eddy said that the best part of her Boise State student experience is the opportunity for continued growth. While some might see all of her accomplishments as having taken her to the pinnacle of her academic career, she knows there is still plenty of opportunity in her future. “Every time I take a step forward, I see more places where I can make an impact,” she said. “I don't think I'll ever stop learning to be a better student and communicator.”

Eddy currently is networking and using her considerable social media clout to make connections across the technology spectrum and has been invited to several events in the coming months.

She recently was featured as a speaker at a Dent: Space event in San Francisco, where she spoke about her experiences as an undergraduate student involved in NASA's Microgravity University program. Dent: Space connects government agencies with private space industry players and talented hackers to encourage connections, innovation and entrepreneurship while exploring the possibilities of commercial space exploration. In October, she'll head to MIT's campus in Cambridge, Massachusetts, to participate in the DOW-MIT Access Program. The mission of the program is to increase the diversity of qualified applicants to Ph.D. programs in chemistry, chemical engineering and materials science.

On Oct. 25, Eddy will be involved in Global Maker Day activities. The event addresses a student's perspective on making through workshops, talks and sessions. In November, she heads back to San Francisco as the only student speaker among a slate of tech entrepreneurs, CEOs and co-founders at companies such as IBM, Facebook, Pixar and more. The Humanity.AI: People and Bots conference features designers, animators, engineers, researchers, and product folks who are keeping humanity at the forefront of AI advancements. Eddy will speak on “How we design systems to avoid — rather than reinforce — cultural bias.”