

## Committee Choice

### When Preparation Meets Opportunity

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My name is Justin Bautista and I am a fourth year electrical engineering student at the University of California, Riverside. I am currently in the prestigious Cooperative Educational Program (what we call a "co-op"), at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, Texas [<http://pathways.jsc.nasa.gov/index.html>]. I am proud to be, as far as I can tell, the first student in my college and university's history to ever be admitted into this program [<http://pathways.jsc.nasa.gov/program.cfm>]. I will be graduating in the spring of 2014 and after graduation, I hope to have a full-time job with NASA. I would love to be a part of the next big piece of technology



that is presented to the world; such as personal computers, the Internet, or sending humans to back the Moon and beyond. After working a while and gaining some experience, I would like to go back to school and obtain a masters degree in electrical engineering through a NASA Graduate Fellowship.

My internship has impacted my career by giving me the opportunity to learn how to work on projects in a team environment. I also was able to see my projects conceived, developed, and finally executed, all in the span of one work rotation; this is something that rarely happens. I was also thrilled that some of my projects are currently being used by NASA.

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During my internship, I had the opportunity to take tours of JSC and attend lectures from different people within the agency. While these events were not technical like my projects, I learned a lot of "life lessons" from these astronauts, engineers, scientists, and other managers at NASA. I believe that insight I gained from these lecturers is just as valuable as all of the technical experience I gained; I would even dare to say that its more important.