



# Lauren Klenk

**B.S. in Aerospace Engineering (2021)**  
**Sierra Space, Madison, WI**

## **Describe your overall duties/responsibilities as a Space Systems Engineer:**

I work on the ECLSS (Environmental Support and Life Support Systems) and ATCS (Active Thermal Control System) for the Dream Chaser Spaceplane. Specifically, I ensure each subsystem and its components are tested thoroughly to meet the overall requirements of the spacecraft. I work with design engineers, test engineers, and project managers and see the various components through the design, build, and test lifecycle phases before they are shipped for final integration into the vehicle.

## **Explain the skills/abilities that are required for being successful in your role:**

It is important to have the ability to look at the broad perspective one minute, and the in depth details the next. Systems is all about taking high level concepts, breaking them down, and looking at all the specifics. Each component is linked, and any minor changes to one part can potentially

have a ripple effect throughout the entire vehicle. Being able to track and understand the constant changes to ensure the functionality of other parts is not compromised requires good organizational skills. Lastly, good communication is key to work with designers, test engineers, and management.

## **What advice would you give to students who are considering majoring in Aerospace Engineering?**

Get involved! There are many project teams, seminars, and societies relating to Aerospace Engineering that are great to start making connections that will last throughout your career. Many industries are looking for what experience you can bring to the team or skills that you learn outside of the classroom. It also allows you to explore your interests and see how what you learn in the classroom applies to real-world projects.

