



Woodstock Community Unit School District 200

For Immediate Release

Aug. 26, 2025

Contact: Kevin Lyons

815.337.3071

Woodstock North grad spends summer at NASA Space Center

A recent Woodstock North grad spent this summer as a NASA intern working on solutions to refueling vehicles in space.

Owen Bonnett, from the Thunder Class of 2024, spent 10 weeks at the Johnson Space Center near Houston until Aug. 9 before returning to Carthage College this fall for his sophomore year as a physics major.

“After this internship, I want to be a civil servant for NASA. It was just an incredible experience. Everyone who’s there is so knowledgeable and just really driven,” Bonnett said.

Bonnett earned the opportunity after conducting research during his freshman year with Dr. Kevin Crosby, a Carthage physics professor and the head of the NASA Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium.

“He has some microgravity projects at Carthage that are typically higher-level projects that sometimes border on grad student levels of research, specifically advanced physics and mathematics,” Bonnett said.

Crosby and his team are working on microgravity ullage trapping — measuring fuel in zero gravity to support the Artemis space mission, which eventually seeks to put astronauts back on the moon.

“It’s an important milestone for in-space refueling for the Artemis program and for future human space flight,” Bonnett said.

Crosby took Bonnett and three other Carthage students to the Johnson Space Center to continue their work with other NASA scientists. Bonnet was the only rising sophomore in the group.

“I’m super lucky and thrilled that I had the opportunity to go when I did, because most people my age would not get that chance,” he said.

Bonnett, who won a Regional award for engineering graphics for his Thunder ACES (Academic Competition for Excellence and Science) team, said he was provided a

strong science foundation at Woodstock North, especially through his physics and digital electronics courses.

He said teachers Jason Penuel and Jillian Barry made the biggest impact on him during his time at North. Bonnett said he hopes to speak in one of Penuel's astronomy classes this school year.

"They're both really great folks," Bonnett said.

Bonnett said he plans to continue pursuing his studies for several more years after earning his bachelor's degree at Carthage.

"For a physicist like myself, I'll probably go directly into a PH.D program with internships and working along the way before completing my program for full-time employment," he said.