**Biography Form**

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| **Name** | Grant Haataja |
| **E-mail Address** | [grant.haataja@und.edu](mailto:grant.haataja@und.edu) |
| **University** | University of North Dakota |
| **Anticipated Graduation Year** | Fall 2020 |
| **Major** | Computer Science & Mathematics |
| **Hometown and State** | Calumet, Michigan |
| **Age** | 21 |

**Please tell us a little bit about yourself. You may answer any or some of the questions below, or you may tell us something else that you would like us to know about you**: Maximum 500 words

* What are your interests?
* Why are you excited about amateur rocketry/this Space Challenge?
* What do you hope to gain from this challenge experience?
* What is your greatest career ambition and how will participating in the Base 11 Space Challenge help you to achieve it?
* What obstacles have you overcome to get to where you are today?
* Why does diversity matter to you personally or to your team as a whole?
* Who inspires you?

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| I have always been deeply fascinated with Space and Astronomy, but also computers. When I started going to college, I soon found that I greatly enjoyed the struggle of problem solving in my math classes, and after transferring to UND from community college, I decided to double major.  I am excited for this Space Challenge because it gives my team and I a chance to develop real-world experience with software development, and because it is an awesome problem for us to solve.  I hope to gain leadership and teamwork skills, and hands-on software development project experience in a way that most classes do not have time to simulate.  My career goal is to work for NASA or some other space exploration company, and participating the Base 11 Space Challenge directly helps me gain the necessary experience and skills to pursue that goal with full force.  I started going to college when I was 17, and I have had to pay my own way from the beginning. I have worked while in school for most of that time, as well as taking several civil engineering summer internships to make enough money to cover my rent and bills. My first 2 semesters at UND, I lived off campus with a friend in order to save money. I rode the city bus to and from school every day, sometimes waiting up to 20 minutes in the -40 degree winter wind for the bus to show up.  Diversity matters to me because I know from everyone I have met, that having more backgrounds and viewpoints on a team is important to get a greater perspective. Any one single viewpoint can be narrow-minded, but adding more different perspectives helps to broaden and grow the team viewpoint as a whole. I have traveled to 8 foreign countries, and whenever I talk to people who come from different backgrounds than myself, I learn something new. |