

best *in class*

Whether it's performing a pas de deux or wiring a solar panel, FIU senior Denisse Aranda approaches life with unbounded enthusiasm.

Scholar



Why FIU:

It's a research university. All of my professors are conducting research, so they're always looking for students to participate. The opportunities have been incredible. I've gotten a chance to apply the things I'm learning to real-life problems. To me, as an engineer, that's very important.

On Future House USA:

Future House USA is an alternative energy home on display in Beijing, China. The Chinese government invited 10 countries to showcase alternative energy homes that are green and responsible. FIU's Future House USA was the sole entry selected to represent the United States. I got to help build it, and I spent a month in China. I'm very proud of our efforts.

Thanks for the memories:

China was an amazing experience. I was able to work on Future House USA, and on our days off, we went exploring. We did some pretty cool things. I climbed the Great Wall, I ate scorpions and starfish and sea snake. I got an opportunity to learn firsthand about the culture of the country that was convening this international green effort, which was fantastic.

My dream:

That's easy. I had an internship with NASA in the spring, and I absolutely loved it. They are going back to the moon in 2020. I'd like to take all of the knowledge that I've learned about alternative energy and help NASA build the lunar base that the astronauts will be living in for an extended period of time. And then from there, I'd like to help Americans become the first on Mars, which NASA wants to do by 2050.

Denisse Aranda, 23 years old, senior
FIU major: Mechanical Materials Engineering with a minor in Mathematics

Hometown: Miami

Denisse danced professionally (ballet) for years. A McNair Fellow, she loves to SCUBA dive, skydive and camp in the Florida Keys.

“There are so many amazing things happening here. FIU was my first and only choice.”



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