



Laura Blanco

Laura Blanco Receives NIST SURF Award

TAMPA, Fla (March 25, 2013) – Laura Byrnes-Blanco, a junior in the Department of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded a prestigious summer undergraduate research fellowship from the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) at Gaithersburg, MD. She will participate in a 10-week internship within NIST's Materials Measurement Science Division.

The program received nearly 600 student applications this year from 136 schools— a record! Every application undergoes three independent reviews and is ranked by NIST research groups (based on students' 1st choice), and then students are matched with research projects/mentors for possible internship positions. Blanco was recommended for the NIST SURF program by Mechanical Engineering faculty Nathan Gallant, Rasim Guldiken, and Autar Kaw.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. The Carnegie Foundation also classifies USF as a community engaged university. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.

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