



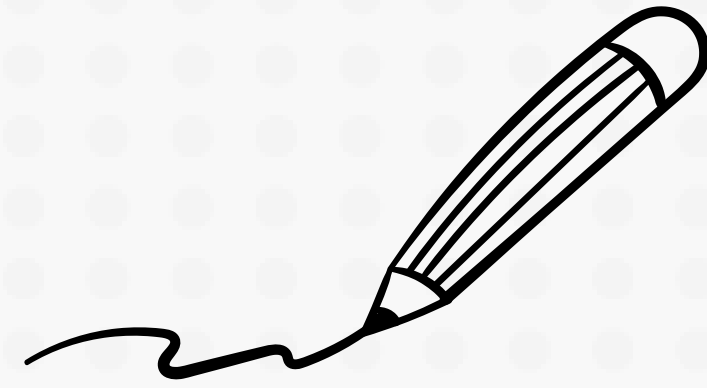
RESEARCH, MENTORSHIP, AND RESILIENCY

**FROM A STUDENT'S
PERSPECTIVE**

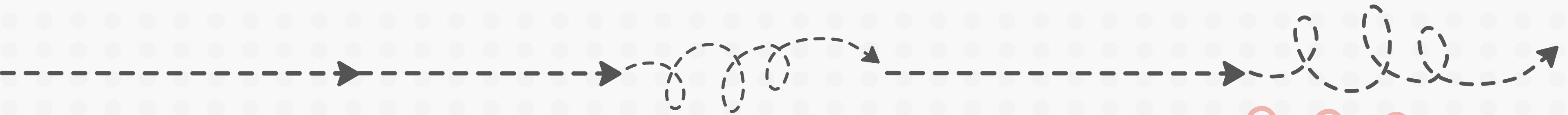
Deborah Higa



Hi! I am...



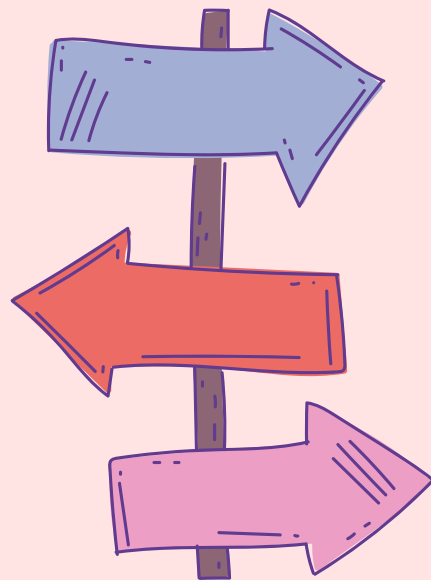
Let's go on a Journey



Elementary



Middle/High



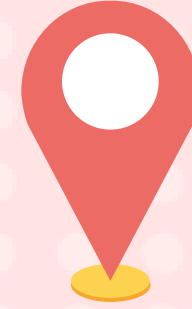
University



The Beyond



Elementary School



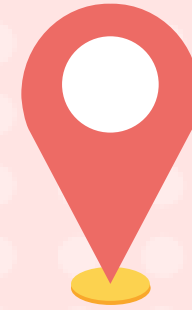
WHAT YOU SAY
MATTERS



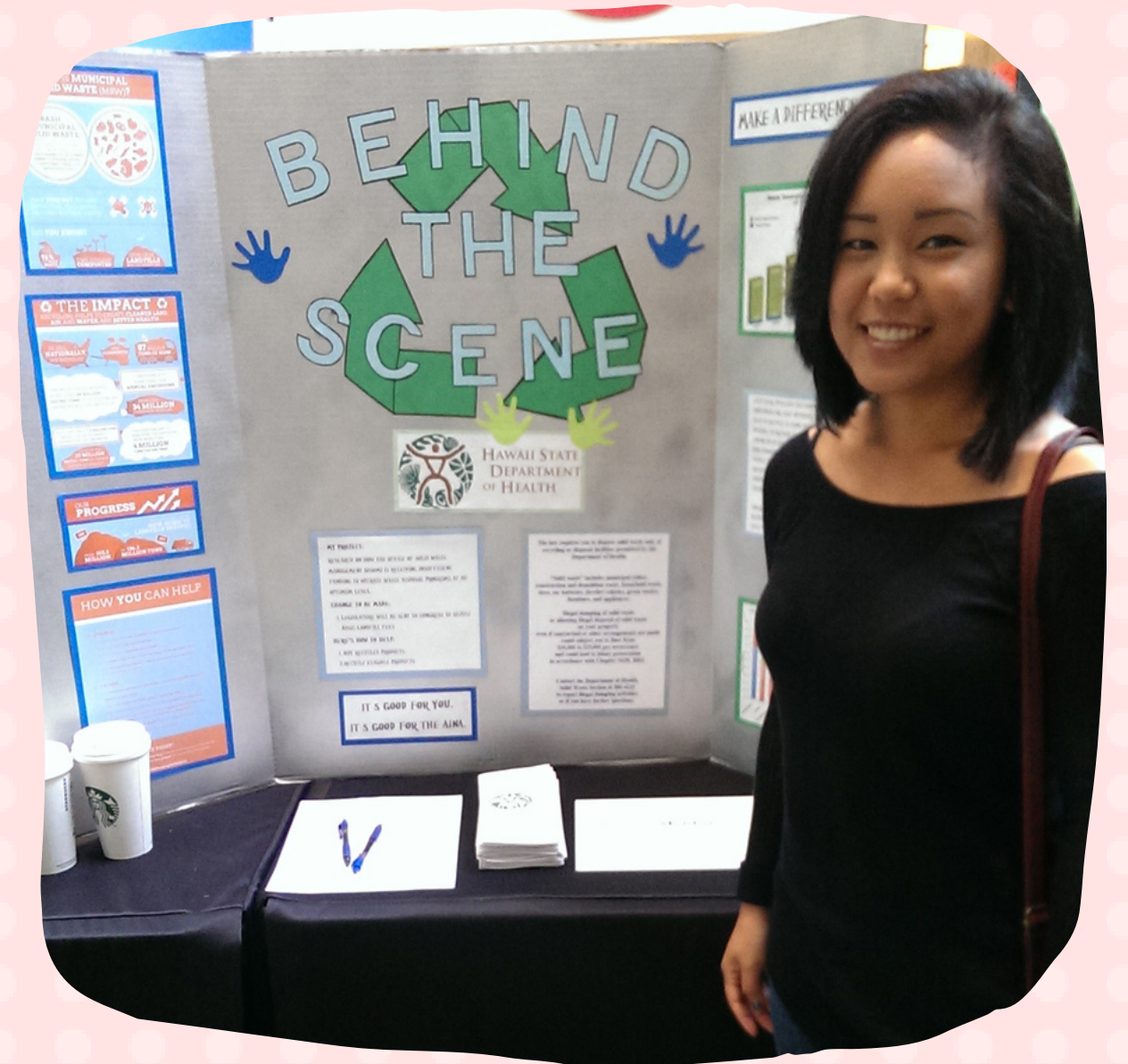
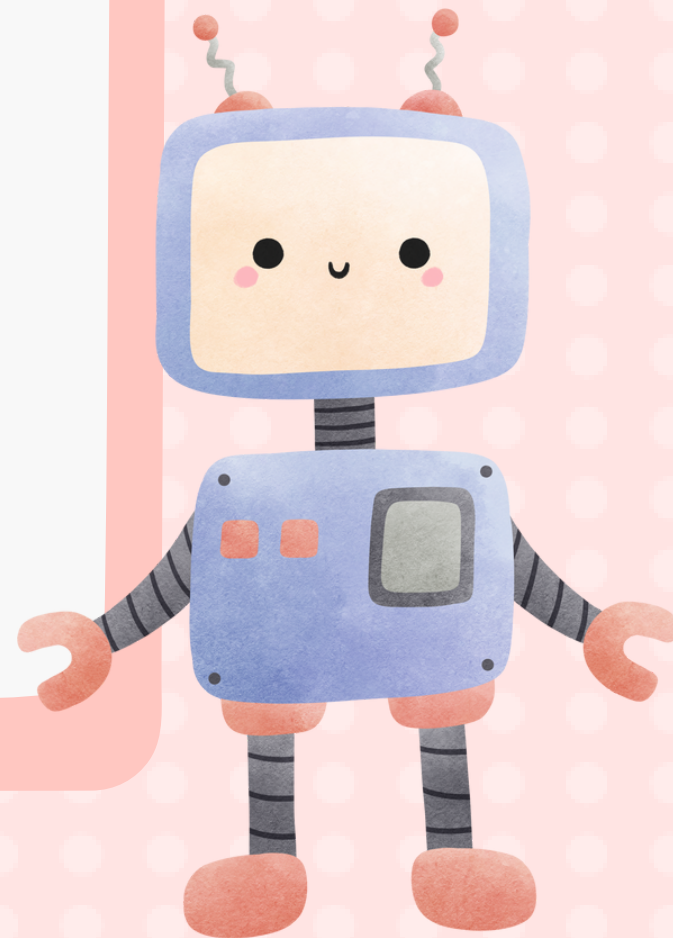
ENGLISH AS
SECOND
LANGUAGE



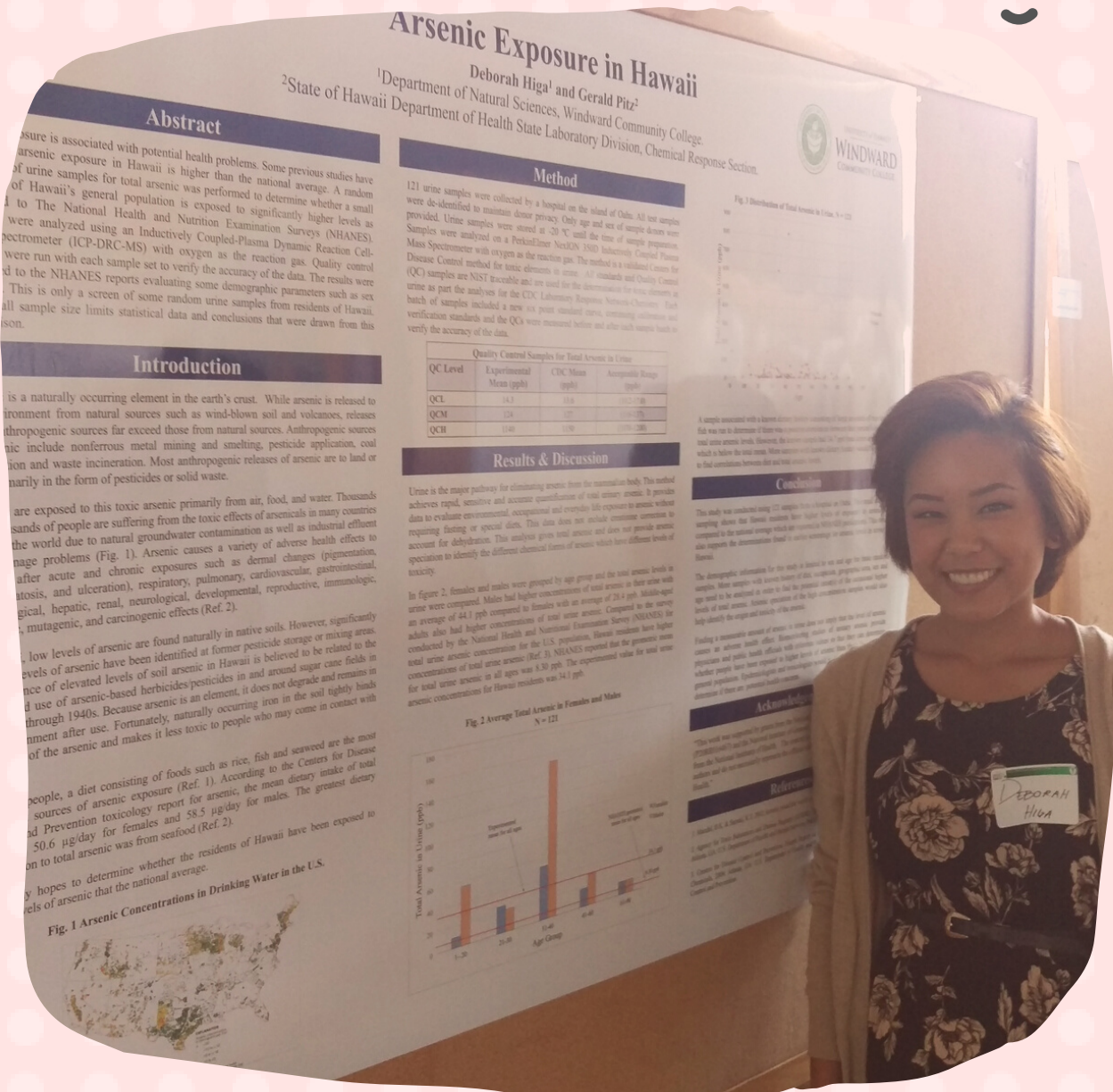
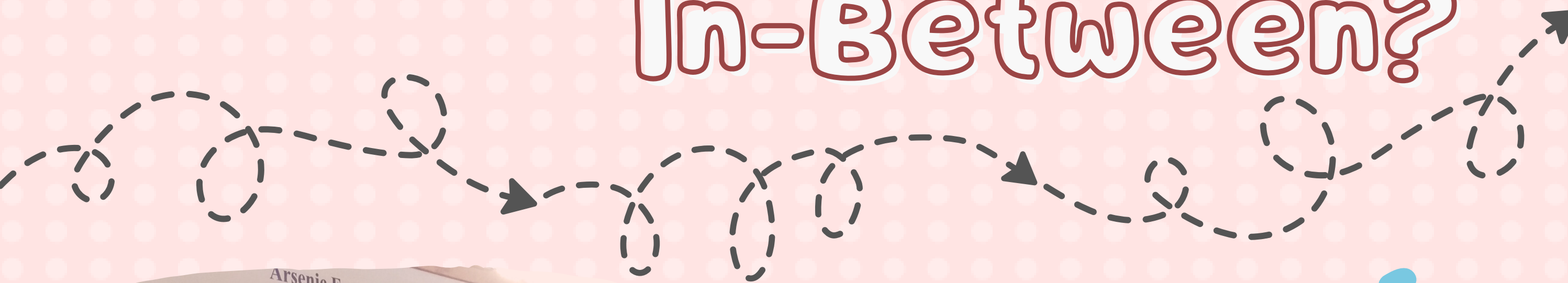
Middle & High School



- King Intermediate
- J.B. Castle High School
- "Robotics is a stinky boys club"
- Student council president



In-Between?



WINDWARD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

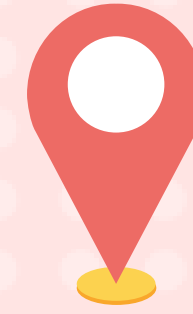
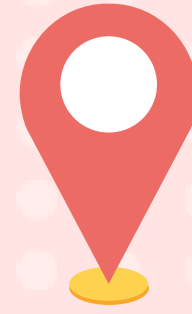
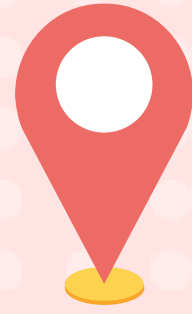
- Journalism for fun
- INBRE research on arsenic exposure in Hawaii

SPRING 2017

- What drives me?

life's tough
take a break

First Year at UH Manoa



FALL 2018

Enrolled at University of Hawaii at Manoa Pre-Engineering

SUMMER 2019

STEM Pre-Academy Engineering Intern



FALL 2019

Declared mechanical engineering as major

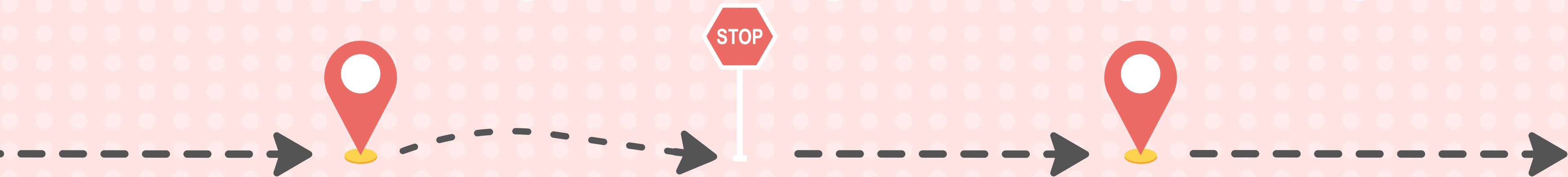


FALL 2019

Joined Society of Women Engineers student chapter



Exploring Engineering Through Projects



SPRING 2020

Joined Ke Ao cubesat
VIP project
Structures Member &
Assistant Project
Manager



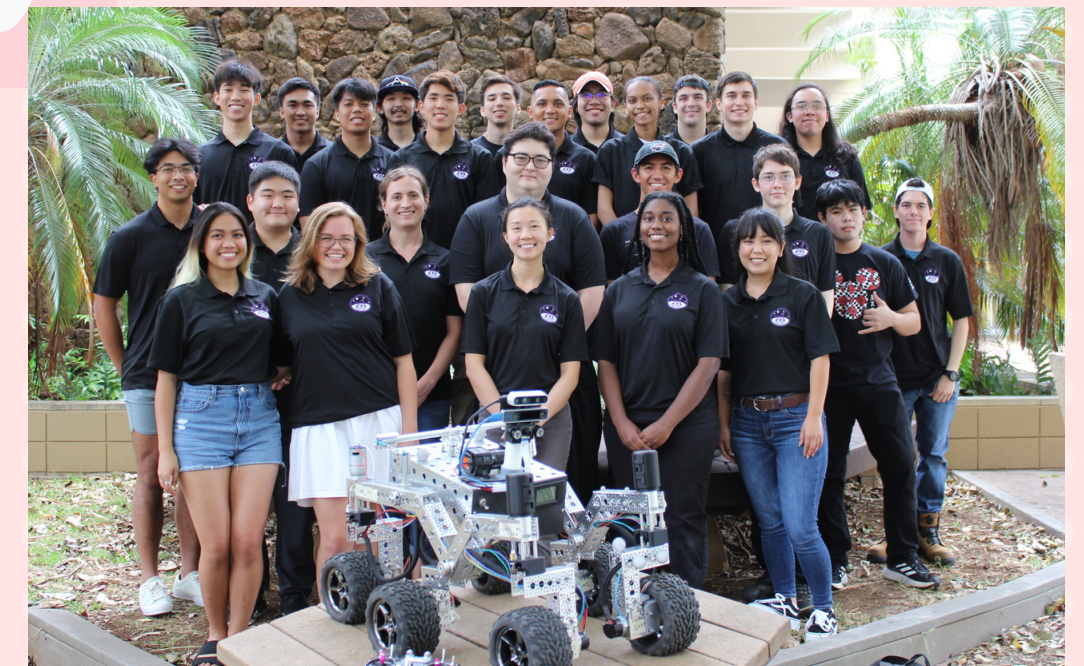
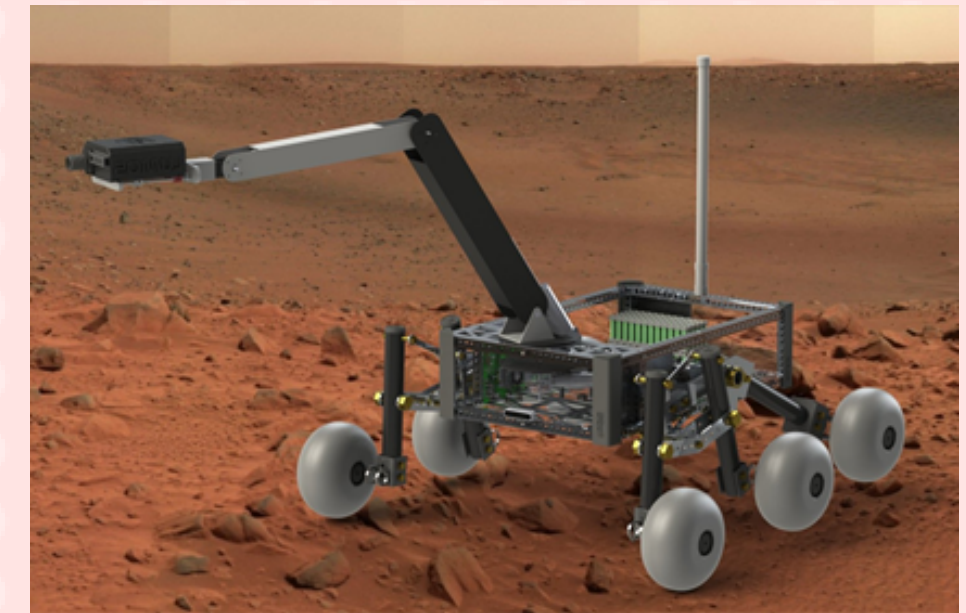
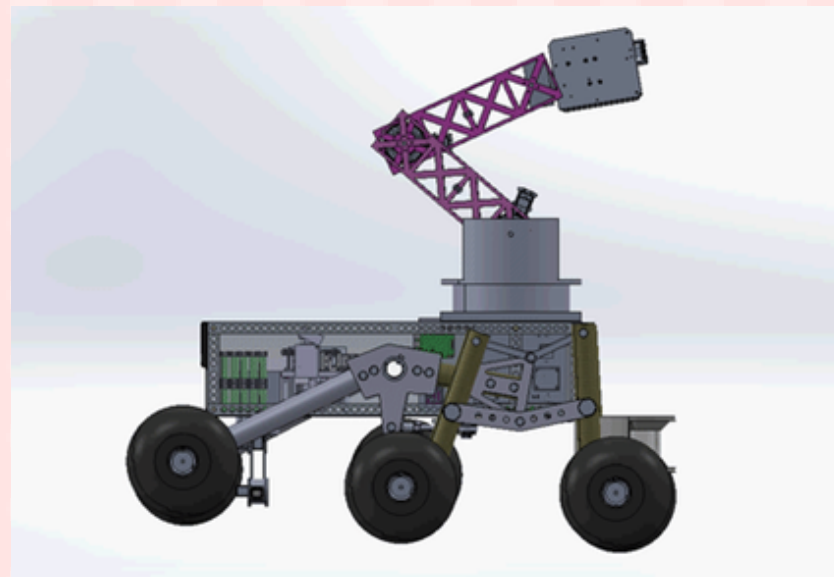
COVID ERA

Zoom school



FALL 2021

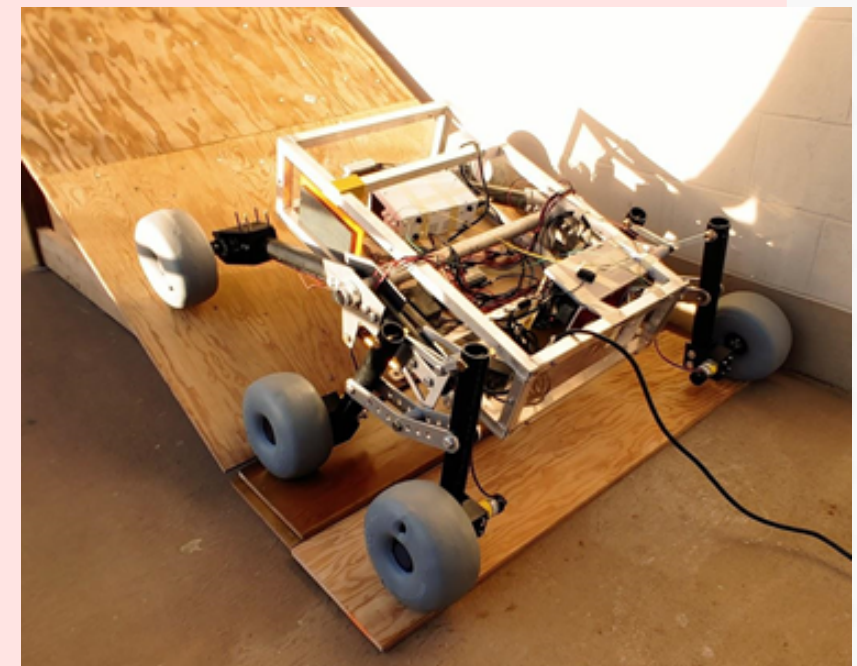
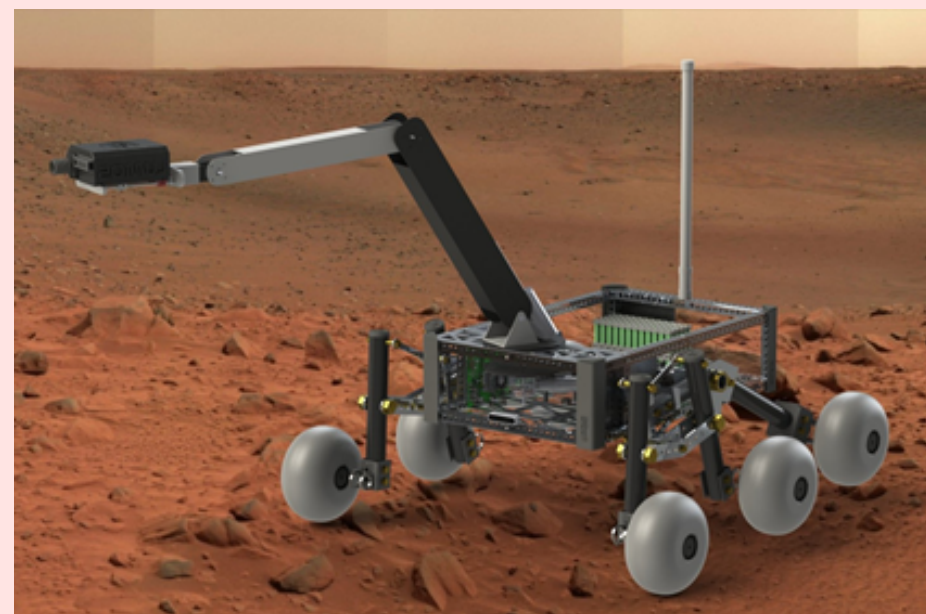
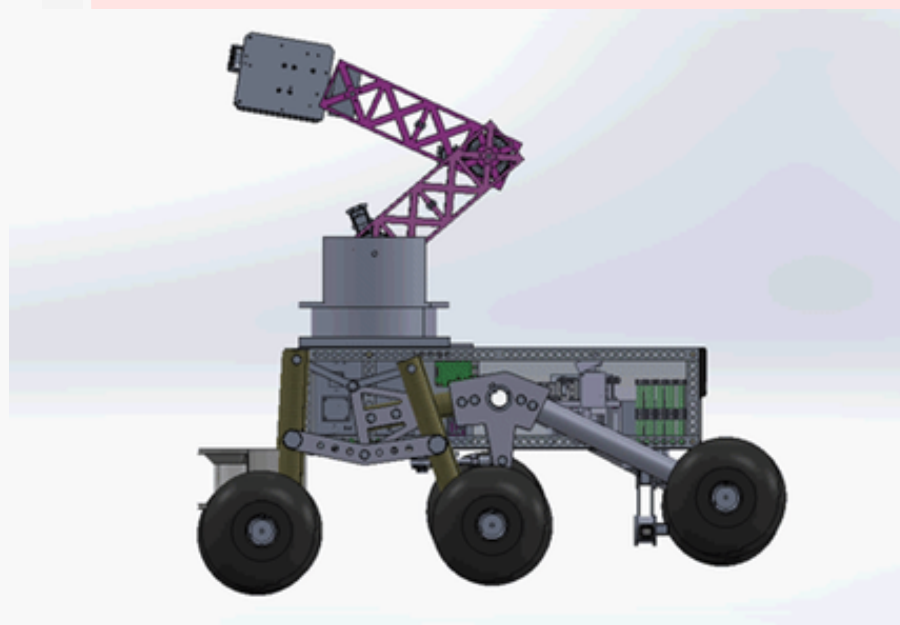
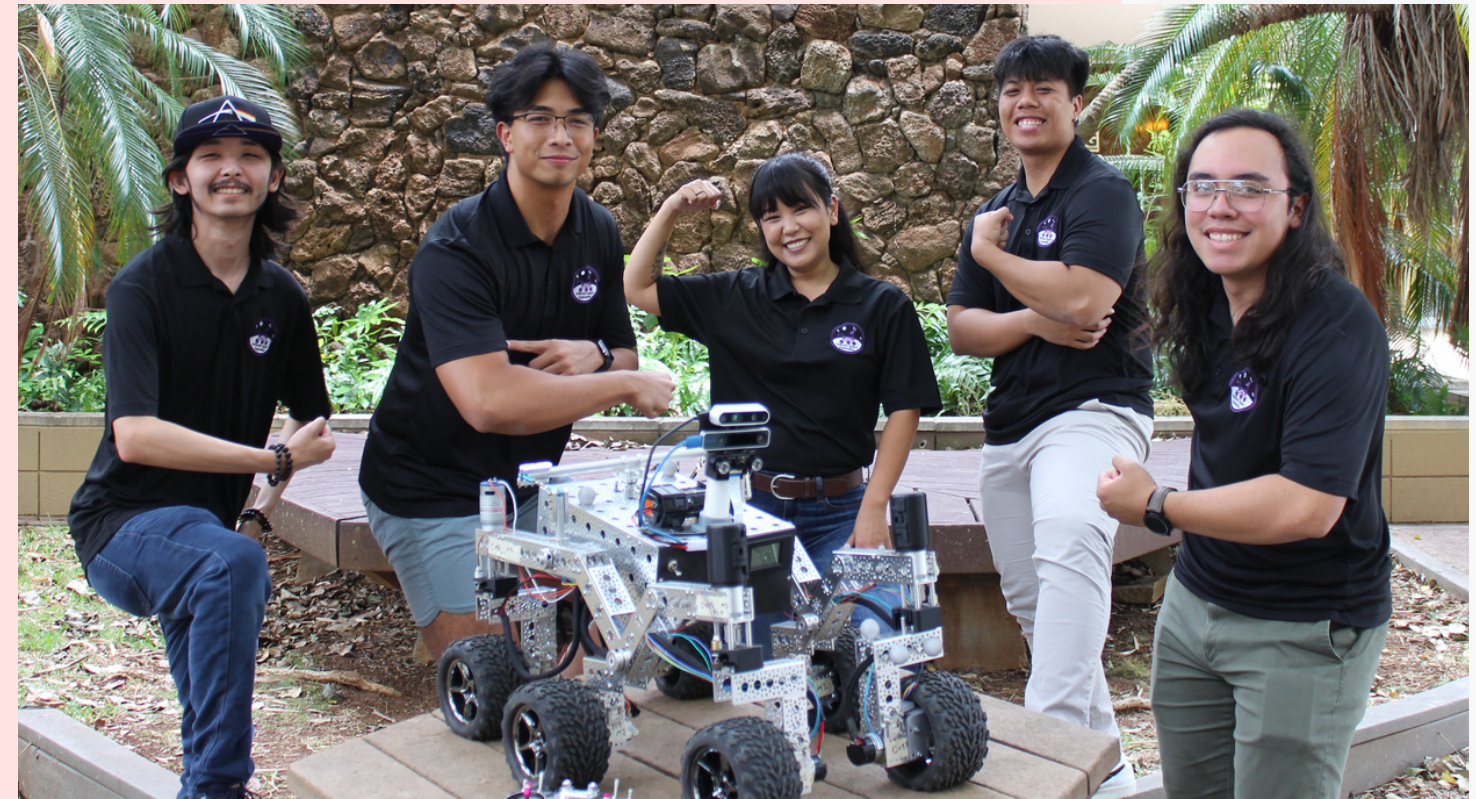
Joined Team RoSE
rover VIP project
Arm Subsystem Lead &
Deputy Project
Manager



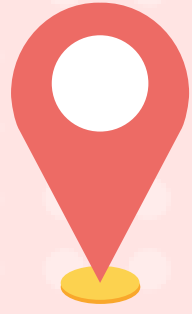
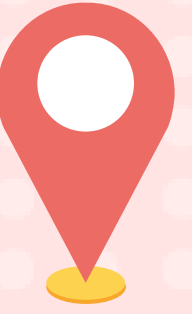
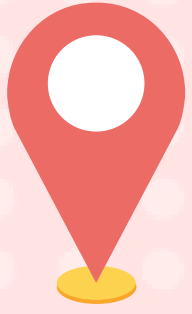
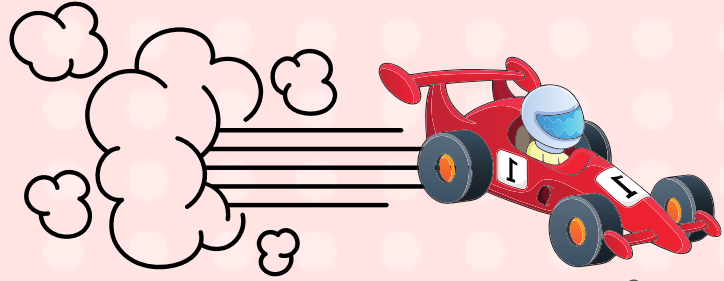


Team ROSE

- RoSE – Robotic Space Exploration
- Vertically Integrated Project (VIP)
 - Long-term, in-depth project-based learning
- ME senior capstone project
- Student-led (32 students), interdisciplinary undergraduate project
- Hands-off advisor
- We don't know until we know



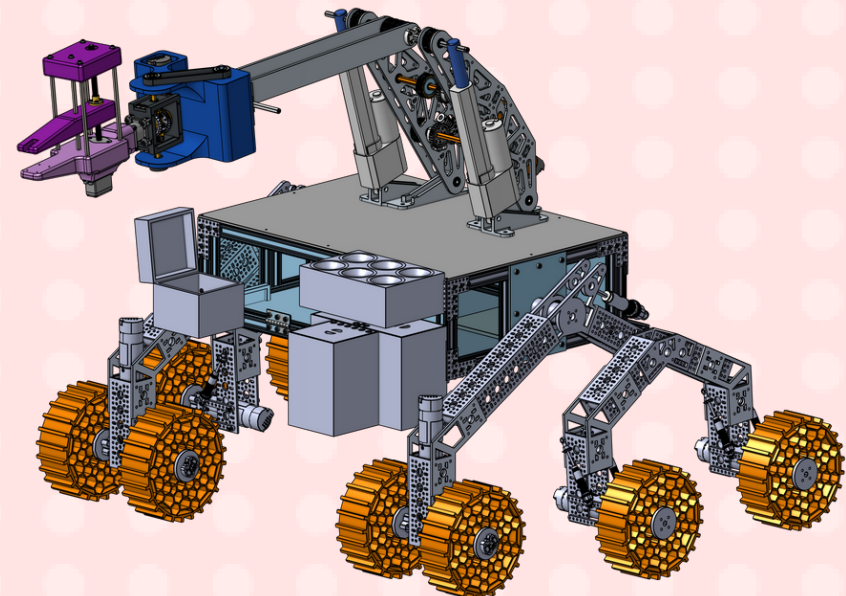
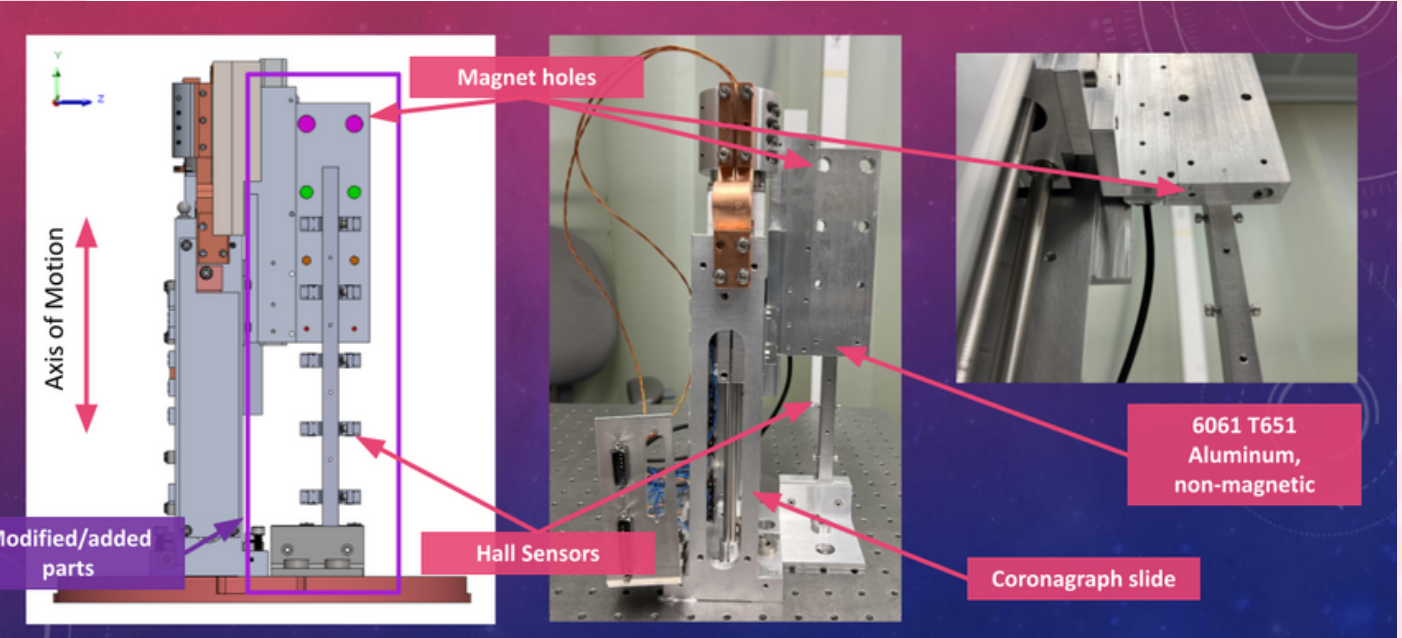
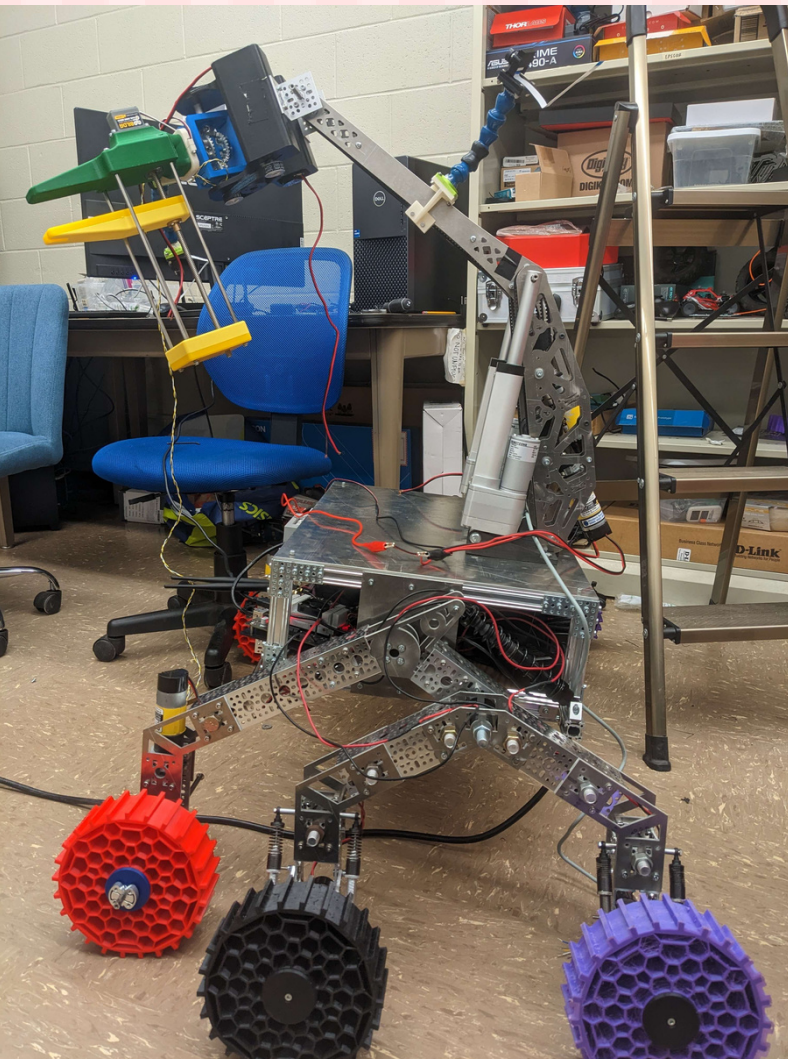
Exploring Engineering Through Internships



SUMMER 2022
University of California
Observatories
Mechanical Engineering
Intern

FALL 2022
PHSNY & IMF
Mechanical
Engineering Intern

**FALL 2022 &
SPRING 2023**
Team RoSE rover
VIP project
Project Manager



- 
- Pathfinding
 - Fail harder
 - Leadership
 - Mentorship

The Big Takeaways





Thank You
for Listening!