Clay Watney

AEROSPACE ENGINEERING AND PHYSICS STUDENT

Ames, IA | claywat@iastate.edu | linkedin.com/in/claywatney

EDUCATION

Iowa State University, Ames, IA Aug 2026 - Present

B.S. Aerospace Engineering, College of Engineering | Primary degree

B.S. Physics, Standard Physics track | Additional degree

First Cyclones Scholar | STEM Scholars, Fall 2026 cohort

Interests include spacecraft design and scientific instruments for planetary missions.

ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

Team America Rocketry Challenge | Team Captain 2018 - 2019

- Led a student team in designing, building, and flight-testing a model rocket. Used what we observed during flights to guide design changes.

Spartan Robotics | FIRST Robotics Competition Team 5724 2017 - 2021

Programming team member, then captain | Salem High School

- Worked with mechanical and electrical teammates to troubleshoot robot behavior during testing. Helped newer team members learn how to diagnose issues.
- Helped inspect the robot and prepare its autonomous routines at the 2018 FIRST Championship in Detroit as a first-year team member.

CERTIFICATIONS

Manufacturing Skills Institute

Manufacturing Technician Level 1 (MT1) Certification

Manufacturing Specialist (MS) Certificate

TECHNICAL BACKGROUND

Model rocket construction and flight testing, mechatronics, industrial automation coursework, and hardware troubleshooting. Python and Java.