1
00:00:00,010 --> 00:00:04,010
I've actually always wanted to be an astronaut.

2
00:00:04,030 --> 00:00:08,050
So getting to work at NASA even for an internship is just a dream come true.

3
00:00:08,070 --> 00:00:12,070
And it's hopefully one step that I take on my path towards becoming an astronaut.

4
00:00:24,150 --> 00:00:16,080
Music.

5
00:00:24,170 --> 00:00:28,170
My official title is optical engineer assistant. I'm basically helping out

6
00:00:28,190 --> 00:00:32,180
with part of a project called WFIRST. Specifically I'm working on the

7
00:00:32,200 --> 00:00:36,250
grism, which is one small part of that telescope.

8
00:00:36,270 --> 00:00:40,320
It's a prism with a diffraction gradient on it. The grism's going to spread out

9
00:00:40,340 --> 00:00:44,350
the light that comes through the telescope and it's going to help scientists

10
00:00:44,370 --> 00:00:48,370
figure out the chemical makeup of exactly what they're looking

11
00:00:48,390 --> 00:00:52,380
at. Maybe they can figure out what dark matter's made of

12
00:00:52,400 --> 00:00:56,400
or super novae or galaxy clusters.

13
00:00:56,420 --> 00:01:00,460

This is basically the bare bones of what we do

14
00:01:00,480 --> 00:01:04,470
do to measure the elements of the grism. We have a calibrated ball.

15
00:01:04,490 --> 00:01:08,500
It measures the difference to get from one surface to the other and tells us

16
00:01:08,520 --> 00:01:12,520
how the prototype for the grism is performing.

17
00:01:12,540 --> 00:01:16,540
I love working in the lab. Working hands-on, I'm a very hands-on

18
00:01:16,560 --> 00:01:20,570
learner. And my work is going to go into

19
00:01:20,590 --> 00:01:24,600
optimizing the grism. So I get to work on something and help so that it can

20
00:01:24,620 --> 00:01:28,650
go into space and that's really awesome. That's fantastic.