

**Hailee Belcher**  
**Geology**  
**Innovation Fellows Program - University of Florida**  
**Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering/Warrington College of Business**

Hailee Belcher is currently a student at the University of Florida studying Geology and pursuing a dual degree in Marine Science. As a sophomore at the University, Hailee has spent the last few semesters exploring the school and everything it has to offer from experiences to connections. During her freshman year she enrolled in the College of Engineering and explored her interest of Aeronautical Engineering. However, she found passions for her leadership and innovation courses while losing fondness for the field of engineering. This led Hailee to explore new options and she landed on her first love: The Ocean.



As a young girl, Hailee found her love for the ocean while simultaneously discovering her hatred of sand. The scratchy texture and tendency to stick to skin created a situation that often led to anxious panic and irritation, so together her father and her created a solution; a gravity shower made of a milk gallon and multiple poked holes in the bottom. While a simple creation, Hailee would continue to solve problems through simple engineering and innovation of existing items all inspired by her first lesson in problem solving. As she aged, Hailee absorbed all the world around her and quickly learned that there was many problems to be solved.

The first observation Hailee faced as a teen was a vast pollution of the waters. Her once clean beach town was frequently littered with trash that threatened the organisms of the Indian River and its estuaries. This problem started her interest in improving the world and mitigating the damage that humans caused on the Earth; she worked with members of her Ocean Bowl team to participate in beach clean ups and water quality restoration in the Treasure Coast. Hailee would work hard to get into her dream school by leading an aerospace club and participating in the student government, all in hopes to one day impact the world through her hard work and passions.

Today, Hailee works hard at the University of Florida while pushing for personal growth and change so that she can one day innovate solutions to some of the greatest problems humanity faces. Active in the geology club and exploring her personal interest in sustainability, Hailee pushes for new and challenging experiences to learn from. Change is needed for growth and growth is needed to survive. Hailee believes that innovation allows for change, thus is necessary for the world and its people to survive.