Congratulations to Caitlin Carroll, recipient of the 2016-2017 William A. Hiscock Memorial Award. Caitlin attends Helena College - University of Montana, where she will graduate in May 2017 with degree in Computer Science with a minor in Programming. This will be a second career for Caitlin, who has a degree in English Writing from Carroll College and was previously a book editor. In summer 2016, she participated in the MSGC LAUNCH program, where she traveled to Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas, to learn the basics of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Her LAUNCH project uncovered disturbing trends in the historical and projected climate impact on wolverine habitat in Glacier and Rocky Mountain National Parks.

With the help of the William A. Hiscock Memorial Award, Caitlin and a team of volunteers are reaching out to underserved students across western Montana. The team gives students mentorship and confidence by introducing them to exciting projects, such as programming microcontrollers or managing hydroponic systems. Caitlin and the team hope that their time with the students will encourage them to explore the opportunities open to them in STEM fields and give them the confidence to follow their dreams.

Congratulations Caitlin!

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The Hiscock Memorial Award is awarded each fall on a competitive basis to an undergraduate or graduate student who has previously or is currently participating in an MSGC program, has demonstrated a strong commitment to their educational goals, and proposes the most compelling use of the funds. The award is named for Dr. William A. Hiscock, the founder of the Montana Space Grant Consortium. MSGC is committed to providing a variety of space-related opportunities to students throughout Montana to encourage careers in aerospace fields.