

## CAP Cadets Visit Conferences Through New NHQ Initiative



*UCAN National Society of Black Engineers participant Cadet Lt. Col. Jadon Pinto (left) poses for a photo with an unidentified member of the U.S. Space Force.*



*UCAN Women in Aviation International participants from CAP include (from left) Cadet 1st Lt. Mia Mayachar, Cadet 2nd Lt. Abby Matsuyoshi, Cadet Lt. Col. Sarah Rose Brigham, and Cadet Capt. Clara Elizabeth Bruecks.*

Earlier this year 34 Civil Air Patrol cadets participated in a professional conference through a new initiative called UCAN (Underrepresented Cadet Aero Networking).

UCAN's primary mission is to help cadets practice networking skills and connect with professionals who share similar interests. Thanks to a generous grant from the U.S. Air Force, nearly every aspect of this activity was fully funded.

In March, the UCAN program had cadets from more than 20 wings participating in one of two conferences. These cadets could visit either the Women in Aviation International (WAI) in Orlando, Florida, or the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) in Atlanta, Georgia.

The tangible impact of UCAN is demonstrated through the success story of Cadet Lt. Col. Jadon Pinto of the New Jersey Wing's Capt. Bud Jackson Composite Squadron, who secured an internship with Boeing as a direct result of his involvement. Pinto is set to commence his internship at the end of May.

Additionally, here are the reflections of two other cadets talking about their UCAN experience:

*“Women in Aviation is a great resource for making connections like these and seeing women out in the field and learning how they managed to find their way to gain the knowledge and experience they have now.” — Cadet Lt. Col. Sarah Rose Brigham of the Georgia Wing’s Barrow-Jackson Cadet Squadron.*

*“I can confidently say I’m not the same after this experience. This has been so eye-opening and extremely beneficial. Speaking to so many CEOs, engineers, and professionals and being around so many other minorities gave me comfort in my future.” — Cadet Chief Master Sgt. Quiana Nicole Madison of the Pennsylvania Wing’s Quakertown Composite Squadron 904.*

If you would like to find out more about the opportunities the program provides, visit the [UCAN Homepage](#).

To view more photos from these events, go to the [UCAN NSBE Photo Gallery](#) and the [UCAN WAI Photo Gallery](#).