



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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## CAITLIN CARFANO

UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH  
APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM ALUMNI

Sophomore at The George Washington University majoring in electrical engineering, concentrating in medical preparation.

### WORDS OF ADVICE

Participating in AEOP has been such a rewarding experience and I encourage everyone to apply! I really enjoyed working with a mentor and would specifically recommend HSAP or URAP! Even if you aren't sure what area of STEM you are interested in yet, you might stumble upon a fascinating field.

### BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

This summer, I learned more than just information about the project I worked on; I learned how to operate advanced equipment such as an Atomic Force Microscope. I regularly conducted research in the Singh Center for Nanotechnology, surrounded by state-of-the-art equipment, and worked with graduate students in my lab. I really enjoyed working so closely with my mentor, Annemarie Exarhos, because I could ask her questions about the research and receive numerous tips on creating and executing presentations. I also participated in a poster session symposium with other REU students and Penn scholars!

### HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN THE STEM FIELD

After learning about quantum technologies and how rapidly this field of study is advancing, I want to continue working in this field. Participating in this program also opened my eyes to all of the other scientists and engineers doing quantum engineering research [I even had a stimulating conversation with my eye doctor about quantum optics patents!]. I have always wanted to help others by pursuing a health/medical-related career. Given this field's incredible potential, I would be interested in research that applies quantum technologies to medical imaging devices.

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