

August 2018



AADIT

RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM [REAP] ALUMNI

AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

I am a junior studying computer science at Yale University. I am conducting research at a computational biology lab studying the genetics of liver cancer at the Yale Medical School.

FUN FACT

Since starting college, I switched majors from biology to computer science! It is never too late to explore new things and seek new challenges.

BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

I loved how it was a full-time commitment. Because of the dedication that comes from both the members of the lab and from the students participating, I was able to spend a lot of hands-on time learning.

I ended up getting mentioned on two papers, which was a great experience to leave high school with. REAP gave me a strong understanding of what research was at a university level and what my fit within that realm could look like.

HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

I was inspired to see the researchers comb through papers and experiments to formulate and test novel hypothesis. I have carried that zeal for wanting to help the world through innovation since REAP.

WHAT ARE YOUR FUTURE HOPES AND DREAMS?

To change the world through technology by leveraging data as a means to personalize medicine, derive new insights, and discover new patterns in nature.

WORDS OF ADVICE

Communication is key. Ask questions and seek clarification. Hold regular meetings with your PI to ask for explicit expectations and guidelines. Feel empowered to talk when you are bored or frustrated, and they will be willing to work with you to remedy things.