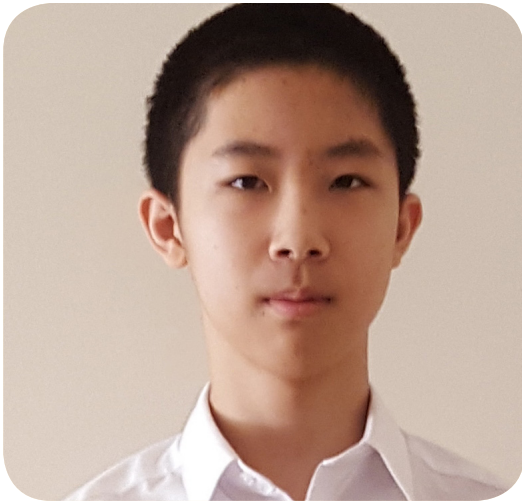


December 2017



## FELIX ZHAN

### UNITE ALUMNI

I am in ninth grade and plan to become a computer scientist.

### WORDS OF ADVICE

Prepare to work hard and expect to learn a lot!

An added bonus was how I was able to work with the UNLV Writing Center to build my research paper writing skills and strengthen my skills to read and analyze published research.

### BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

I attended the Unite program hosted by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas [UNLV]. We worked in the Big Data Lab within the computer science department. Thanks to my programming mentors, Carter Chiu and Elliot Ploutz, and my research mentors, Matin Nia and Shahab Tayeb, I worked in a very encouraging environment where everyone wanted each of us to succeed. I really enjoyed learning how to program in multiple languages, including C, C++, Python and Java. I also wrote several research papers, ranging from topics in social media networking to verifying signatures and checking for fraud.

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

My experience in Unite taught me how to think like a computer scientist. An added bonus was how I was able to work with the UNLV Writing Center to build my research paper writing skills and strengthen my skills to read and analyze published research. Through my research, I learned about using game theory to find Nash equilibrium in social networks; deep learning to check signatures for forgery on checks; and optimizing a social media network algorithm for “friend” recommendation — all college-level topics not typically covered in high school classes. Lastly, I learned how to present a paper to an audience effectively.