



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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