



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

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SIMONE

RESEARCH & ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM [REAP] ALUMNI

I am a sophomore at Howard University where I study computer science.

WORDS OF ADVICE

Do not let the work intimidate you. At first it may seem hard, but your mentors really work with you to make sure you get a meaningful experience. Also, don't be afraid to try new things because you never know what you may like.

BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

My favorite part was being able to further research that was already happening at the university. My mentor let me work with real genes. It was hard work, but I finally found a new gene that my mentor had been unable to, which will serve as an early biomarker in ovarian cancer. I am extremely proud of that!

HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

REAP gave me an opportunity to explore a field that I had no interest in. I went to college to study communications, but I was not fulfilled in that area. My true calling is coding, and without the AEOP I would not have found it. That's why I wish to ignite a flame of passion in other students.

IF YOU COULD MEET ONE PERSON LIVING OR DEAD, WHO WOULD YOU CHOOSE? WHY?

I would like to meet Morgan Freeman because he has a very soothing voice, and I could learn so much from him.

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