

February 2018



## AUSTIN

COLLEGE QUALIFIED LEADERS  
PROGRAM AT WALTER REED ARMY  
INSTITUTE OF RESEARCH (WRAIR)  
IN SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND

I am working at WRAIR as a microbiology research technician in the Department of Bacteriophage Therapeutics.

## WORDS OF ADVICE

Do it! I believe in trying new things and stepping out of your comfort zone. This gives you the best opportunity to grow in all areas, personally, professionally and intellectually. I grew a lot from this experience and you can too!

## BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

I enjoyed being at an Army facility, working alongside Army officers, and observing how important the STEM fields are to the military and U.S. government. Learning from a mentor—Dr. Andrey Filippov, who is a leader in his field—was a highlight. It was unique to learn about the logistics and day-to-day life of a professional working in science. This was an amazing experience that enhanced my research knowledge and skills, which will be beneficial in my career.

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

AEOP helped me learn so much more about the biomedical research, which will serve me well in my goal of becoming a physician. It helped me improve my laboratory and technical writing skills that I hope to use in the future and develop an interest in antimicrobial resistance, surveillance and treatment. I hope to continue to conduct research in my career as a physician and inspire younger generations of STEM professionals.

## WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE STEM ROLE MODEL?

Dr. Neil deGrasse Tyson, because he is one of the greatest minds of this generation. I would love to talk to him about the universe.