ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

ARMY EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

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JORDAN

RESEARCH & ENGINEERING APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (**REAP**) ALUMNI

I'm a high school senior planning to continue biological STEM research in college.

WORDS OF ADVICE

Take charge! It's your responsibility to do a thorough job with your background research and have a clear purpose in mind. Never be afraid to ask your mentor or lab peers for help.

BEST THINGS ABOUT THE PROGRAM

My task was to further research infant epilepsy using a computational simulation. I really liked how independent my project was, because it forced me to take initiative with something I was uncertain about. I learned to manage my time more efficiently, do background research online, and actively communicate with my mentor and lab partner. Though I initially struggled with this level of independence, I learned many valuable lessons from this experience and emerged from this internship as a more complete scientist.

HOW PARTICIPATING IN AEOP INSPIRED YOU TO ADVANCE IN STEM

My research with epilepsy illuminated so many concepts in biochemistry which I had never fully understood beforehand. I began to understand how important the balance of cell signaling was, especially in neurons, and how a slight imbalance can lead to fatal diseases. I was inspired to learn that scientists are developing computational models to help simulate and advance our understanding of biological diseases. I am excited to try to further scientific knowledge of biochemistry in the quest to defeat diseases like epilepsy that millions suffer from.

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE STEM ROLE MODEL?

Nikola Tesla will always be my scientific hero. He used his unparalleled genius and persistence to better the lives of others through his inventions.

Each month AEOP features some of our program participants. Read what these current and future STEM leaders have learned and what they are up to now. If you're an AEOP alumni (student and mentors) and want to tell your story visit us here: **www.usaeop.com/about/tell-us-your-story**