Ryan Greene
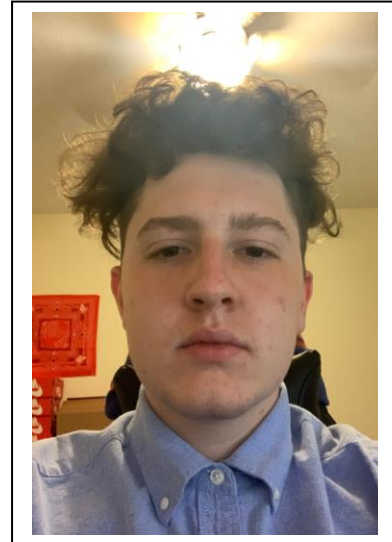**Computer Science**
Innovation Fellows Program - University of Florida
Herbert Wertheim College of Engineering/Warrington College of Business

My name is Ryan Greene. I was born December 31st, 2001, in Margate, Florida just miles from my home. My parents are Donald Greene and Jessica Greene and I have two siblings: Austin Greene and Emma Greene. Everyone in my family is separated by exactly two years and I am the middle child at 20 years old. I grew up in Coconut Creek in a small suburban neighborhood where my family has lived for over 25 years.

At a very young age I was exposed to computers and have had access to one for as long as I can remember. After long days of playing outside with friends or practicing with the Tsunami swim team there was nothing I enjoyed more than playing video games and watching YouTube videos in my room. My father has worked IT his entire life and for my 10th birthday we built my first PC that is in use to this very day (with some upgrades of course).

Throughout middle school and high school I took great pride in my academics. I maintained a flawless GPA and was enrolled in the IB program for 7 years of school. I was a National Merit Finalist in high school due to my PSAT score and later secured a 1510 on the SAT. My drive to learn was insatiable and I genuinely looked forward to learning and hanging out with friends at school every day of the week. I competed and placed on state and national levels as a member of my school's math club, MAO. Regardless of the hard work I put into school I knew it was important to maintain a social life and participate in extracirriculars. I earned upwards of 500 community service hours through KEY club and was the president and founder of my school's Anatomy Honor Society. Both of my parents attended the University of Florida and I had been a Gator since birth so when it came to college applications, choosing a school was easy with UF being the only school I applied to.

I began my education at the University of Florida in Fall of 2022 as a Biochemistry major. Coming into college I had aspirations to attend medical school and become an anesthesiologist. Every semester I enrolled in as many credits as possible and always supplemented my major-relevant courses with math classes as I find them very enjoyable. Despite passing all of my courses and earning a spot on the President's Honor Roll with a perfect GPA, my interest in attending medical school had begun to dwindle. I began to find courses such as organic chemistry extremely monotonous as the process of learning seemed to be mostly memorization as opposed to problem solving. In Spring of 2022 I decided to switch majors to computer science alongside completing a mathematics and chemistry minor. Since freshman year of college I have been involved in the development and use of purchase automation software as a source of income. As time went on and I learned how to properly utilize and enhance these programs, my hobby became quite lucrative with hundreds of high commodity items shipping in to be sold for profit. Although the money was nice, understanding the power of software development and its potential to perform tasks and calculations at inhuman speeds enthralled me. This newfound passion led me to the realization that I did not need to become a doctor in order to help people and bring advancements to the world – the tools for doing so have been sitting right infront of me on the desk my entire life.