



Freedom Grads ---> Future Stars

Austin Bailey is a 2013 graduate of Freedom Area High School and attended The Pennsylvania State University. While at Freedom, he was a member of the Drumline for the Big Red Marching Band and Drama Club. Austin performed in the productions of *Footloose*, *The Music Man* and *Fiddler on the Roof*. He was also named as Student of the Month and selected for both Homecoming King and Prom King.

Austin graduated from Penn State in 2017 with a B.S. in Economics with a focus in Public, Human Resources, International and Developmental Economics. He was named to the Dean's List multiple times.

After graduating from Penn State, Austin started his career at Freedom United FCU as a teller and worked his way up to the analyst position where he wore many hats. He was able to lead the credit union in a very positive direction in regards to cost, investment and member engagement. Austin was told by many people that no matter who walked through the door, he knew their name. From there, he went into a yearlong freight broker position where he built a solid book of business spanning the United States managing nearly 100 loads per month before he left that position. Following that, Austin started his current position in November 2019 as Corporate Credit and Collections Analyst at PPG Industries. In this position, he manages the lion share of the company's largest zone, the Southwest, for the Architectural Coatings Division. Austin plans on continuing to develop his professional career at PPG in the years to come.

Over the years, Austin has also sung the National Anthem at various events. He ran for local political office, the hard way as a write-in candidate, for New Sewickley Township Supervisor. Austin also volunteers for different political and Christian events including bookkeeper for Family Bible Church.

While at Freedom, Austin liked the people and teachers, as well as the class sizes. The class sizes were large enough to be able to find out who you are and small enough to have the individual time with the teachers for anything you may not have understood or that you may need help with post lesson.

Austin's thoughts on Freedom, "It's a close-knit culture where no kid is just let go by the wayside. They have a faculty that pushes each kid to get them to reach their true potential - they care. The programs at Freedom are pretty inclusive; I knew nothing about music when I joined the Drama Club and Drumline at Freedom, but that didn't matter because I was guided and taught and had a ton of fun along the way."