

## Freedom Grads ---> Future Stars

Jacob Beckey is a 2015 graduate of Freedom Area High School and winner of a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the United Kingdom where he obtained a Master of Research degree in Quantum Technology at the University of Birmingham in 2019. Jacob graduated from Clarion University in 2018 with two bachelor's degrees (Physics and Math) with a 3.97 GPA. He earned a full tuition scholarship at Clarion based on his very high SAT scores.

After graduating from Clarion in 2018, Jacob travelled to Oak Ridge, Tennessee to complete a physics research internship with the Quantum Information Science Group at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory. He then finished out 2018 by flying to the U.K. to begin the Fulbright program. After completing the Fulbright in Birmingham, England, Jacob travelled to Boulder, Colorado to begin doctoral studies at the University of Colorado in the fall of 2019. His tuition and research have been fully funded with scholarships from the National Science Foundation-Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Jacob is currently in his 2nd year of doctoral studies in Boulder and served as a Quantum Computing Fellow at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. In addition to loving science, he enjoys rock climbing, hiking and weightlifting.

While at Freedom, Jacob admits he was not a motivated student until his sophomore year when he experienced an educational metamorphosis while learning about Physics. Dr. Wargo took him under his wing and began mentoring him. Jacob's academic performance took a new and rejuvenated direction. He founded the Physics Club; joined the Spanish Club and Math League; and took AP classes and dual enrollment credits, which helped him to graduate from Clarion one year early.

Jacob's fondest memories of Freedom include Dr. Wargo's class and Physics Club (and the deep friendships and discussions developed there); Ms. Gudzan and Spanish class; Mr. Fitzpatrick and his classes; and Mrs. Porter and her classes. Jacob is very grateful to the Freedom teachers for believing in him and helping him to achieve his lofty goals. Congratulations to this exemplary Freedom graduate!