



NORTHERN ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY  
*Extended Campuses*

# How NAU helped one student *discover* his dream

“ NAU has given me a future. Those goals, those dreams, those aspirations that I now have are all thanks to NAU. ”

**James Birmingham**  
B.B.A., Entrepreneurship and  
Small Business, 2014

## Meet James

James Birmingham lives in Phoenix, Arizona. While working as a manager for a major corporation, he decided to pursue a degree in small business management and entrepreneurship. He started taking classes at Paradise Valley Community College in 2009 and transferred in 2011 to The Extended Campuses of Northern Arizona University.

### James's Dream: His Own Business

James has big plans. He wants to follow in his father's footsteps and be successful in business by taking on his own entrepreneurial venture: opening his own coffee shop.

“I've always had a knack for finance accounting and an interest in business,” he says. “Now I want to be able to achieve the dreams that I've wanted to accomplish in my life.”

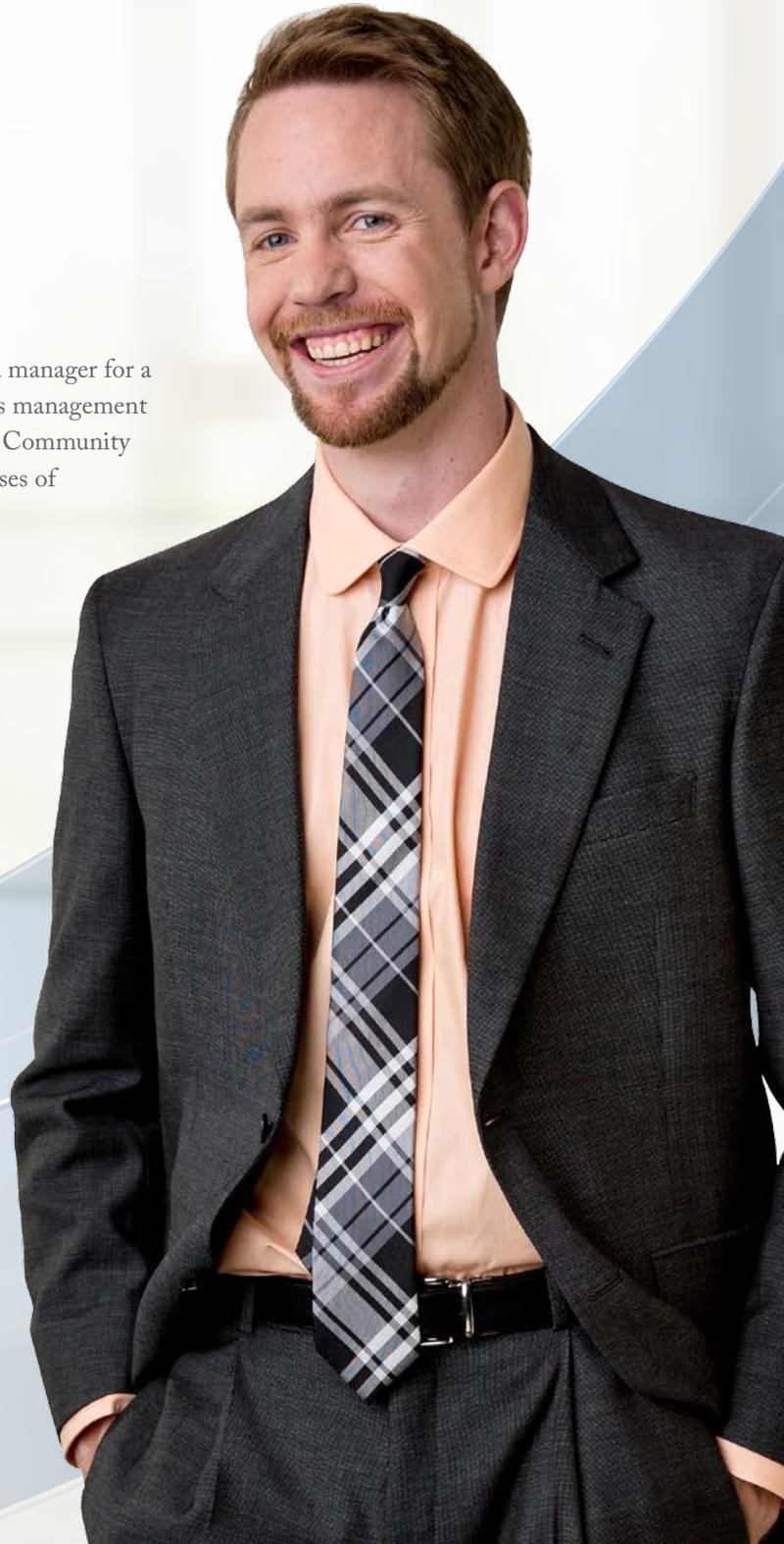
To reach his goals, James decided to enroll in the small business management and entrepreneurship program at NAU.

### Why NAU

After completing his associate degree in business at Paradise Valley Community College in 2011, James transferred to NAU.

What sold him on attending NAU were the small class sizes. “I wanted to be in class with 15 or 20 students,” James says. “It's important to me to have one-on-one time with that teacher every single class session.”

James was also impressed at how smoothly he transitioned to NAU. “It was painless and easy,” he says. “NAU has always been there for any questions that I've had for them and they always had answers for those questions.”





“NAU encourages students to learn not only in the classroom but also with each other out in the real world.”

— James Birmingham

## From Classroom to Commerce

James found a comfortable balance between working at his job and his NAU studies. “The teachers and staff were willing to work around my schedule,” he says. “I’m able to complete my degree and still learn a lot about the field that I am going to work in.”

He was able to instantly apply what he learned at NAU to his job. “The NAU program has showed me how to become a better manager,” James says. “I know how to approach situations better, how to build teams, and how to create innovative ideas.”

## Team Lessons

At NAU, James learned the value of working with a team. “NAU has given me that opportunity to show how working together leads to achieving something greater than we can achieve on an individual level.”

This lesson came to light during a classroom assignment. “One of my proudest moments was when my team pulled together and created a group project,” he says. “It not only came together better than we anticipated, but we honestly blew our class and teacher away.”

### Learn More

To find out more about NAU–Extended Campuses, including its degree options, locations and affordable tuition:

**Visit:** [nau.edu/extended](http://nau.edu/extended)

**Call:** (800) 426-8315

**Email:** [extended.campuses@nau.edu](mailto:extended.campuses@nau.edu)

**Go:** Visit your local NAU campus

Your future.  
Made here.

## NAU’s Degree Options

Our bachelor’s degree options let students like you:

- **Save money** on tuition by transferring up to 90 credit hours.
- **Stay local** by completing your NAU credits online or at a local community college.
- **Advance your career** in Small Business Administration, Entrepreneurship, Human Relations, and other growing fields.

## Popular Fields of Study

- Arts & Humanities
- Business & Administration
- Computing & Technology
- Criminal Justice & Social Studies
- Education & Counseling
- Health Professions
- Hospitality
- Math & Science
- Parks & Recreation

## Flexible Class Formats

**Online:** Learn anywhere with high-quality online classes.

**In-Person:** Take class in person at one of NAU’s 30+ campuses.

**Blended:** A mix of in-person and online coursework.