



For Students

April 23, 2025



## Pace of Major Campus Building Projects Strong Heading into Summer

Walking through the construction site of the **Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building**, Greg Justice can describe where everything will eventually be. The groundbreaking was in September, but the Purdue University Fort Wayne associate vice chancellor for facilities management has worked extensively on the project more than four years.

"On this side, we'll have editing suites and the studio access," Justice said, pointing the way. "There will be another recording studio in that corner, and you can see the larger rehearsal room coming in over there, and a smaller one behind that."

Justice easily describes how everything will look, and when students return to campus for the fall semester, they'll have a better picture of it themselves. Not only will they see significant progress on the music industry building that's situated along the north end of Mastodon Way, but also the 612-bed **Trace at Purdue Fort Wayne** student housing complex across St. Joe Road on the university's North Campus.



[READ MORE](#)[SPRING UPDATE  
VIDEO](#)

## ETCS at Purdue Fort Wayne Receives \$803k Grant from Don Wood Foundation

The College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science at Purdue University Fort Wayne has been awarded \$803,000 from the **Don Wood Foundation** to establish new labs for metallurgy and cybersecurity. The grant will also be used to help ETCS modernize equipment in two existing labs dedicated to fluids and pneumatics and power machinery.

The first stage of the enhancements will focus on the purchase, installation, and training associated with the highly specialized, state-of-the-art equipment. The goal is to have everything in place during the upcoming fall semester, and some of the expanded academic offerings are expected to take shape quickly.

The second stage of the two-year initiative will involve ETCS faculty designing the new laboratories, developing courses, and creating degree options that incorporate the advanced technology. As part of this stage, students will begin using the new equipment in hands-on settings, gaining direct experience with the tools and systems that reflect current industry practices.

[READ MORE](#)



## Trip to Croatia Much More Than Stereotypical Spring Break for PFW Students

Most college students heading off for spring break are just looking for warmer weather and a good time. This March, a group of 17 Purdue University Fort Wayne students also found life-changing experiences in the small European country of Croatia.

Led by Hal Odden, chair of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, the students said they had no regrets about their choice. They all got something different out of the trip, and a few said they will definitely go back.

"It was fun, it was entertaining, it was educational," said Bree Felger, a junior majoring in anthropology and history. "It was an educational trip, but it did not feel like that. We were learning for 6–7 hours a day, and Professor Odden did a phenomenal job organizing it."

[READ MORE](#)





## Revitalized Visit Day Room Helping PFW Make Stronger First Impression

There's a bright, bold space Purdue University Fort Wayne is using to make a good first impression. The Office of Admissions recently unveiled a new look, designed by the Office of Communications and Marketing, for its visit day area on the first floor of Walb Student Union, Room 125.

After checking in at the admissions front desk, prospective students and two guests walk into the new gathering spot to receive a 30-minute presentation from an admissions counselor. The visit day room can accommodate 30 people before they are led on a campus tour.

The much livelier area now features pictures of popular PFW sites and current students participating in campus events.

[READ MORE](#)

# Good to Know

---

## Prescription Drug Take Back Day is Saturday

The Cole Clubhouse at Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus will be a drop-off location for National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This opportunity for students, employees, and others to properly dispose of unneeded medications to help prevent misuse and opioid addiction will take place Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Syringes, liquids, or vapes with batteries will not be accepted. PFW University Police will have two officers on site to assist.

## Future Microsoft 365 Tenant Migration Planned

Purdue IT will be migrating Purdue University Fort Wayne users to the single Purdue system Microsoft 365 tenant at some point in the coming months. This change will allow easier file sharing and communication among students, faculty, and staff system-wide who use the Microsoft 365 suite. Email addresses ending in @pfw.edu will not be changing. No action is required at this time. Look for further communications as information becomes available.

## Last Day to Order Caps and Gowns for Commencement is Friday

Herff Jones manages all orders for commencement regalia. Kente stoles and international stoles are also available. The last day for orders is Friday. Cap and gown orders will be shipped directly to the address entered at the time of the order, as well as a return shipping label. [Click here](#) to see the pricing.

## Eventful

---

*There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the full [events calendar](#) often to see what's happening on campus.*

APRIL

23

Today, 6–8 p.m.

### Pop 'n' Rock Supershow #1

Dive into the ultimate musical experience with Pop 'n' Rock Supershow! This high-energy concert will feature popular music ensembles delivering a mix of classic covers and original hits, making for an unforgettable night of pop and rock entertainment...

---

APRIL

24

Thurs., 5–7 p.m.

## SAPP: Take Back the Night Mixer

Join us for the Take Back the Night Mixer, hosted by The Women's Center, The Multicultural Center, and the Q Center, as we come together to raise our voices and stand in solidarity against sexual violence. enjoy a relaxed and supportive environment with light refreshments, opportunities to make...

---

APRIL

26

Sat., noon–2 p.m.

## El día de los niños/El día de los libros storytime

The Women's Center, the Multicultural Center and Helmke Library present a bilingual story time along with songs, crafting, and snacks. Get a free book to take home and parade your craft in front of the library before a tour. The free book is at pre-K through second grade reading level. Books will be given to families that sign-up for the event, then first come, first served...

## News Spotlight

---

*A sampling of external news coverage of Purdue University Fort Wayne.*

### Kayak Kleanup returns to St. Joe River

Fort Wayne-area media | Friday

### Archery and atlatl throwing demonstration

WANE 15 | April 16

## Mastodon Moments

---

*Seen and noted around campus. Monitor our university social feeds for more great moments of Mastodon life.*



A PFW armada headed out to clear trash from the St. Joseph River and its shorelines during the most recent Kayak Kleanup event on Friday.

Athletics



Events Calendar



News Center



Don Life Archive



Don Life is an official university communication sent weekly on Wednesday to all currently enrolled students. Don Life Special Edition is a supplement to the regularly scheduled newsletter. It covers breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY  
**FORT WAYNE**



