



## Day of Giving 2025 Finishes as One of the Best

Students at Purdue Fort Wayne received another outpouring of strong support during the university's annual Day of Giving on Wednesday. As the clock struck midnight, 1,240 gifts totaling \$793,854 had been registered. That's the second-highest number of gifts made during the seven years the annual fundraising initiative has taken place. The nearly \$800,000 raised is the third-highest total during that span.

The "Big Give" as it's called at PFW benefitted again from participants on and off campus including faculty, staff, alumni, and external supporters. Through gifts big and small, donors demonstrated their confidence in the university by investing in scholarships, academic programs, campus infrastructure, athletics, and other critical initiatives.

This true investment in northeast Indiana's future makes a big difference. Hear from several leaders around campus as they share their thoughts on Day of Giving 2025.

[Click here](#) to see additional results posted on this year's challenge and leaderboard page.



Human services major William Meyer and Eric Manor, associate chief of campus and community wellbeing, pose for a photo in the university pantry, a recipient of Meyer's commitment to service.

## Today's Blood Drive Showcases Meyer's Passion to Help

As a middle school student, William Meyer was bullied because of his autism and other challenges, which could have forced him to isolate and bitterly turn inward. Instead, he says high school friends rescued him. Now as a Purdue University Fort Wayne senior, he finds ways to help others.

The human services major is spearheading a **Red Cross blood drive** today with the goal of making it the largest in PFW history. The available records say the most donors have been 40, a mark set a couple of years ago, but Meyer is encouraging at least 50 people to sign up or walk in.

The blood drive is taking place at Walb Student Union from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is handled through the Red Cross website. Sponsors are the Division of Campus and Community Wellbeing, Campus Recreation, Student Life, Student Leadership, and the Student Activities Board.

[READ MORE](#)





## Graduate Students and Families to Celebrate Hooding Before Commencement

Among several changes to streamline the ceremony this year, graduate students taking part in Purdue Fort Wayne's 2025 Commencement on May 14 have been invited to be hooded and photographed prior to the ceremony in the hallway just past the Appleseed Room at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. This more intimate opportunity for family and friends to help celebrate the monumental achievement will take place between 1:30 and 3 p.m.

"We're constantly looking for ways to improve the ceremony and ease the significant time commitment for graduates, their families, and friends," said Jerry Lewis, vice chancellor for communications and marketing. "We want to be sure the ceremony ends at a reasonable time, so graduates can get to family dinners and other celebrations."

The act of hooding will be carried out in much the same way it always has with designated faculty hooders from each college or school standing by to do their part. To make sure everything flows smoothly, other assistants and volunteers will also be stationed at the Appleseed Room to lend a hand.

Graduate students will then wear their hoods throughout the commencement procession and degree conferral, rather than carrying them.

Faculty members involved in hooding are encouraged to stay for the 4 p.m. ceremony and walk and sit with faculty colleagues on the main arena floor.

Remember to leave plenty of time to pass through the metal detectors at security on the way into the Coliseum.



## Donate Professional Clothing to the Mastodon Career Closet at Drive-Thru Event on May 16

The Career Development Center will host a professional clothing drive on May 16 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. For added convenience, staff members will be stationed at Kettler Hall on the back circle drive that's bordered on two sides by **parking lots PL6 and PL9** so donors won't need to get out of their vehicles.

The Mastodon Career Closet is a great resource that provides free professional clothing to students for interviews, internships, jobs, and career fairs. Those who wish to donate outside of the clothing drive hours may use the drop box at the Career Development Center, which is located in Kettler Hall, Room 109.

Consider using this change in seasons to do some spring cleaning and start a stack of items that could help students jumpstart their professional careers.

# Eventful

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*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.*

MAY

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Fri., 7–11 p.m.

## Spielfreaks Campus-Community Tabletop Board Game Night

Play all kinds of modern tabletop board games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, 7 Wonders, Splendor, and more (all are appropriate for high school and up). You'll find an eager crowd ready to play your favorites and teach whatever you want to learn...

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MAY

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Mon., 8 a.m.–9 p.m.

## Summer Selections Exhibition

A selection of work from freshmen- to senior-level art majors in the Department of Art and Design will be exhibited through Aug. 10...

# News Spotlight

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

## Purdue University Fort Wayne senior leaves 'exemplar' mark on campus

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Saturday

## Gigi's Playhouse celebrates graduation of four students from Gigi's University

21Alive | April 24

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## Ancient thought experiment can guide our thinking on latest technologies

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | April 23

## GC welcomes guest speaker on cyber safety, bullying as resource for parents

Greenfield Daily Reporter | April 23

## Don Wood Foundation awards Purdue Fort Wayne's ETCS with \$803k grant

Local and state media | April 22

## East Allen County Schools names year's top teachers

The Journal Gazette | April 22

## In a Snap

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





John O'Connell (center), dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, gives instruction in the art of swordplay to some visiting high school theatre students on Friday in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



Athletics



Ripples



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*Inside PFW* is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW Special Edition* is a supplement to the regularly scheduled newsletter. It covers breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations.

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