



For Students

October 8, 2025

The screenshot displays the EVERMONT Marketing (BBA) Smart Plan interface. The main section shows a course plan for Fall 2025, Spring 2026, and Spring 2027. The plan includes a timeline view, a list of courses with their credits and status, and a 'What is next?' section. A purple circle highlights a course in the timeline.

Smart Plan Offers Students at Purdue Fort Wayne an AI-Powered View of Their Optimal Degree Pathways

For the first wave of students at Purdue University Fort Wayne who will get to use it, the Smart Plan degree platform should eliminate much of the guesswork often associated with choosing the classes needed to stay on track and on budget.

When the early registration window opens Oct. 27 for the spring and summer terms, students in 17 degree programs at PFW will gain access to this AI-powered tool that simplifies their experience by creating a personalized educational plan based on the chosen degree. Smart Plan will also notify them of changes or conflicts that may affect their path to a desired graduation date. More than 780 students will be able to take advantage of the new platform during the first phase of this multiyear implementation.

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Sports Leadership Concentration Added for Athletic Academics

Since grade school, Kenton Aubrey admits he's always been a basketball junkie—playing, coaching, moving through various levels of positions at different colleges—and now teaching leadership in sports classes as an adjunct professor in the Department of Organizational Leadership at Purdue University Fort Wayne. As proof of his travels and experiences, Aubrey has collected more than 200 pairs of athletic shoes.

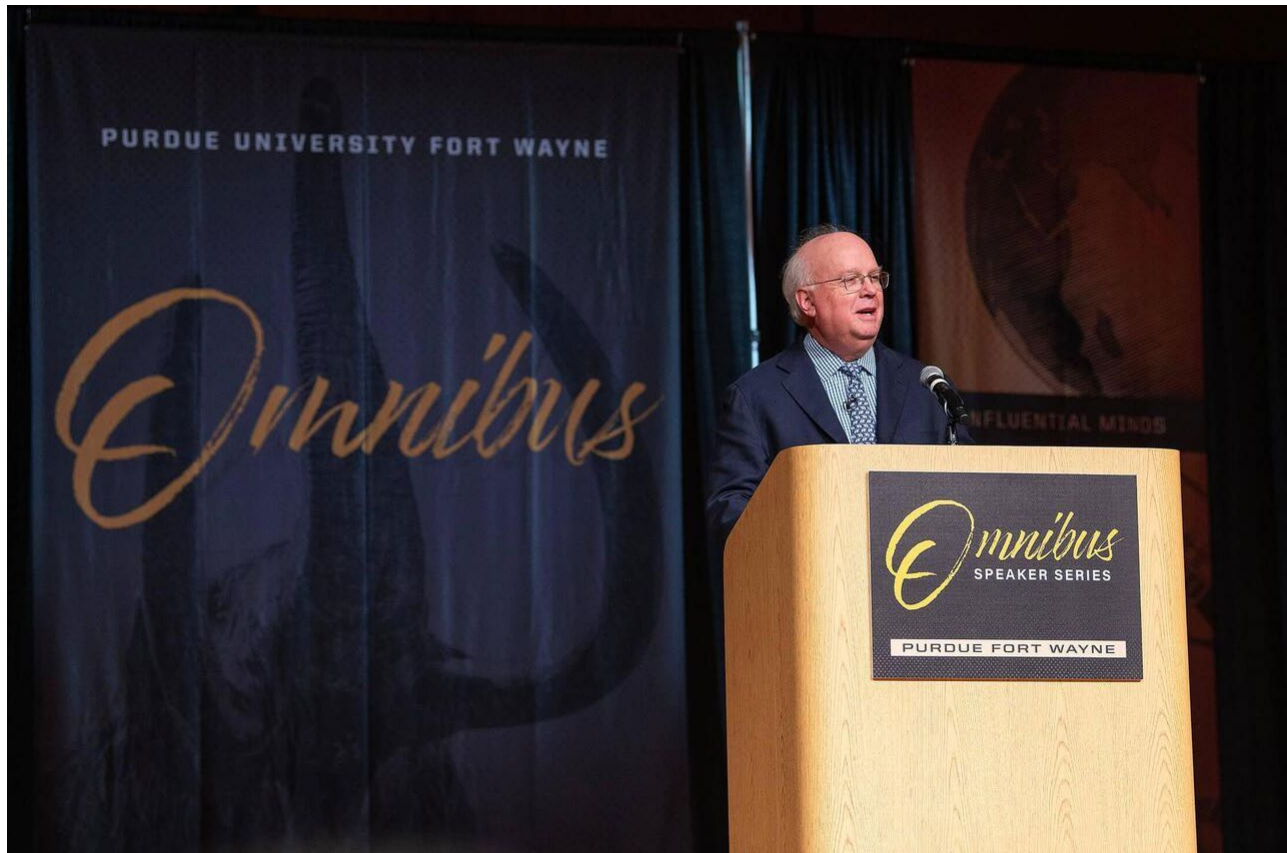
With this track record, Aubrey's students better be prepared to lace up their own shoes because they're going to be very busy as PFW continues to grow its recently launched sports leadership concentration. It's the natural progression from the class Aubrey has been teaching for three years, according to Michael Kirchner, chair of organizational leadership.

"We have a lot of student-athletes, athletics personnel, and general students expressing interest in these courses," Kirchner said. "We are definitely in a unique position in terms of how to center a curriculum that touches on all the different aspects of what it looks like to be successful in sports as a non-athlete."

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Rove Shares Historical Context to Illustrate Nation's Resiliency

Perhaps many attending Tuesday evening's 30th season opener of Purdue University Fort Wayne's Omnibus Speaker Series expected Karl Rove to strongly critique the current White House occupant. Instead, the special advisor to President George W. Bush shredded the entire political system with a history lecture that did conclude with a glimmer of hope for the future. Perspective will help guide us forward, he taught.

After asking everyone in Auer Performance Hall to raise their hands if they were happy with the state of American politics, a rhetorical question that drew the intended laugh, Rove provided his perspective on past governmental eras when no one could seem to get along, suggesting the dysfunction has been even worse.

After reminding everyone of the turbulent and often violent events of the 1960s and early 1970s, Rove addressed the unrest of the 1800s through the election of 1904. Under his narration, it's a wonder the nation survived so much drama and constant arguing that seemed to never relent.

"If this gets bad today, it's been worse before, and we ought to take a little bit of solace from that, because it can get better," Rove said.

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Meet Men's Sitting Volleyball National Team Tomorrow Morning

Mastodon Athletics will host the Paralympic men's Sitting Volleyball National Team on campus on Thursday. All students are invited to swing by the main arena at Gates Sports Center at 9 a.m. to meet the athletes, ask questions, and hear their inspiring stories.

The team is in town to compete at the **World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Cup** being held on the Turnstone campus Oct. 12–18.

PFW's Crisler Parlays Prestigious Position into Prime Programs for Campus Community

Curtis Crisler, Indiana's poet laureate and professor in the Department of English at Purdue Fort Wayne, is hosting Summit City native and author Michael Martone at an on-campus gathering Thursday from 3 to 4:15 p.m. The session will take place in the Liberal Arts Building, Room 148. It is open to all PFW students.

A former creative writing professor at the University of Alabama, Martone has written many nonfiction and fiction works, including "Fort Wayne is Seventh on Hitler's List," "Safety Patrol," and "Alive and Dead in Indiana." During his visit to PFW, he will answer questions about the art, business, and life of writing.

Crisler and Martone will also conduct a public reading at Wunderkammer Company, 3402 Fairfield Ave., at 7 p.m. on Friday.



Campus United 5K to Benefit University Pantry

The fifth Campus United 5K will race off the starting line Oct. 25 at 9 a.m. outside Walb Student Union. The event brings together the Purdue University Fort Wayne and Indiana University Fort Wayne communities in support of the FRIENDS of the University Pantry, which is open to both student bodies and area residents.

Students, staff, faculty, and members of the public can run or walk the course, with packet pickup starting at 7:30 a.m. The cost of **registration** is \$25 until Oct. 13 when it bumps up to \$30.

Registration will be free to the first 100 students who use the entry code Students100. Monetary donations are also **accepted**.

This will be the first time the event takes place in the fall so it can coincide with PFW's new Family Day. The 5K will kick everything off.

Share the story: [!\[\]\(a870788d6ed9b8fd294b7654a8c8526b_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(18065afa4ef6662bca9f3f6088f7de30_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(b985170eefb48b9b3ef593e79310e8f5_img.jpg\)](#)

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.

OCTOBER

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Mon., 1–3 p.m.

National M&M Day Celebration

It's National M&M Day—swing by the Herd Hideout, flash a smile, and load your pockets with free candy. No tricks, just treats...

OCTOBER

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Tues., 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Talent Tuesday: Meet Your Next Employer

Meet with employers to talk about internships, co-ops, work-study, and other career opportunities. You can also just come to network and practice networking with employers...

OCTOBER

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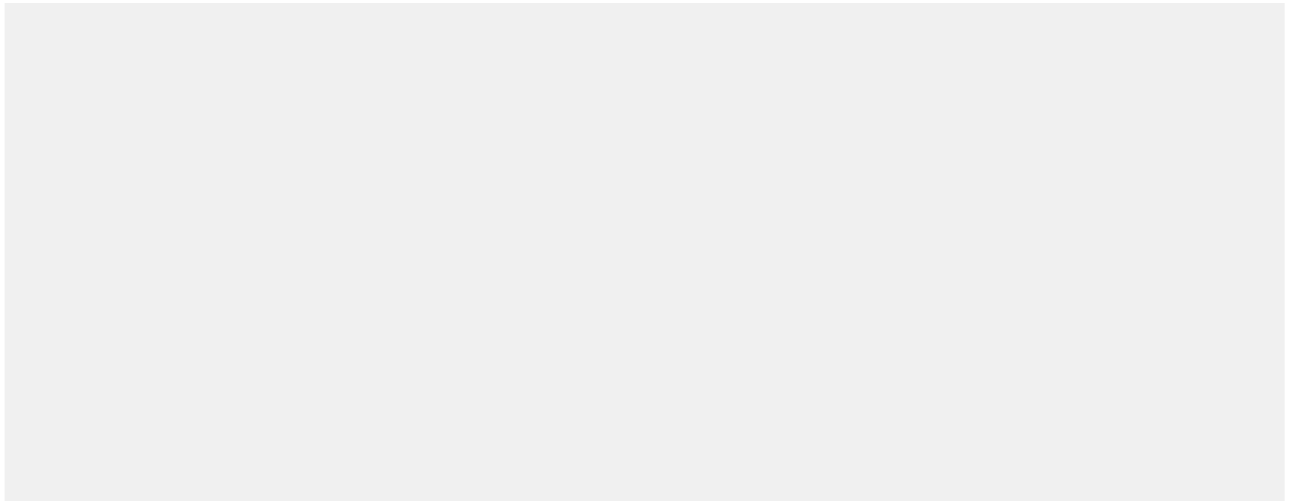
Wed., 7:30–9 p.m.

Westward Bound: A Big Band Journey

Join the PFW Jazz Ensemble for a thrilling concert exploring the dynamic energy of big band jazz from coast to coast—from the soulful cool of the West Coast to the powerful swing and funk of the modern era...

Mastodon Moments

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





This prospective Mastodon was one of many who got to know PFW a little better on Sunday during the university's Fall Campus Visit Day.

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.

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