



For Students

September 24, 2025



Fresh Ideas Brings New Flavor to Campus Meals

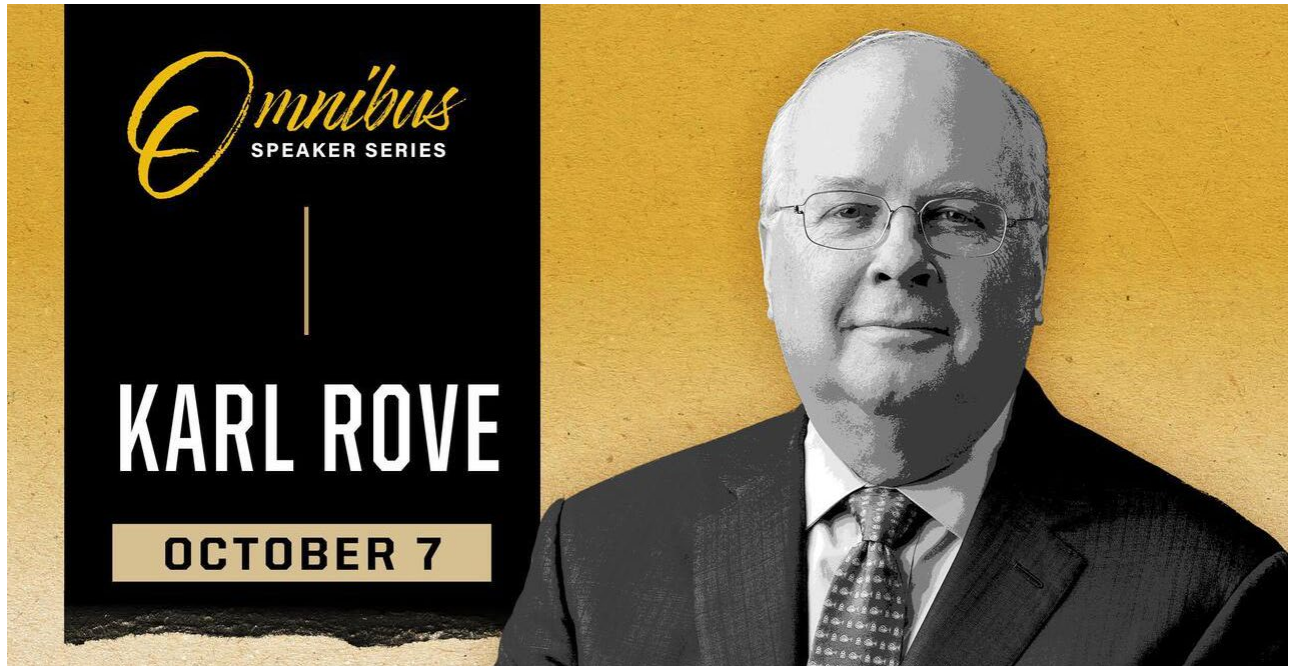
After Todd McCrory became director of dining services for Fresh Ideas Food at Purdue University Fort Wayne in the summer of 2024, he set out to wipe their operations clean like a freshly scrubbed counter. He dislikes the word “change,” but is always looking for opportunities to “improve.”

“You have to have the right set of eyes,” McCrory said. “You walk around a kitchen, see a problem, and take care of it.”

It may some days feel like all he’s done over the last year is take care of those opportunities, but McCrory and his staff continue to introduce their modifications. They’ve been working hard to figure out what works, which means returning students should already be noticing the improvements.

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Karl Rove Tickets Available Today: New Security Measures Added

Purdue University Fort Wayne's popular Omnibus Speaker Series will kick off the 2025–26 season on Oct. 7 with Republican political influencer Karl Rove. Rove served as senior advisor to President George W. Bush from 2000–07 and was the architect of Bush's 2000 and 2004 presidential election victories. He will step onto the Auer Performance Hall stage at 7:30 p.m. to present "America's Challenges Amidst Its Broken Politics."

Tickets will be released today at 1:30 p.m. and are general admission this season rather than assigned seats. They are free and available on a first-come, first-served basis through the **Schatzlein Box Office** or PFW's **online ticketing platform**.

For added peace of mind, all those attending the presentation will participate in safety and security measures consistent with many major events across the country. No book bags, backpacks, or gym bags will be permitted in the Music Center on the night of the event. Purses may also be subject to search by security personnel. Additional safety and security steps could be added prior to the event, at the discretion of the university.

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How PFW Helped Guide an Alumna to Her True Vocation

Being a doctor is all Kayla Chin ever really dreamed of, saying at age 5 that's what she was going to do. It's a vision that stuck with her through middle school, while attending New Haven High School, and as a biology major at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Chin, B.S. '16, has never doubted her calling, though she did decide while attending medical school to switch from being a cardiothoracic surgeon.

"I rotated into neurosurgery, and I was like, 'Oh, this is amazing!'" Chin recalled. "I could get there at 5 a.m. every day and work until 11 p.m. and not get tired of it. This was it. I had found my people. There are definitely times when it's not fun, but I'm also just so thankful that I get to do this job."

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HTM Hosting Panel Discussion Today on Upcoming Sitting Volleyball World Cup

The Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management at Purdue Fort Wayne will host a panel discussion from noon to 1 p.m. today exploring the business aspects of Fort Wayne hosting the World ParaVolley Sitting Volleyball World Cup. That event is scheduled for Oct. 12–18 on the Turnstone campus, 3320 N. Clinton St.

The discussion will take place in PFW's Liberal Arts Building, Room 159. It's expected to include at least 200 students from the freshman-level intro to business course in the university's Doerner School of Business. There will be approximately 100 seats remaining for others who want to attend.

The panel will include Jazmin Zavala, sports sales manager of Visit Fort Wayne; Reggie Beer, sport event coordinator for tournament host Turnstone; Steve Florio, PFW women's volleyball coach; and Cami Wood, a Blackhawk Christian High School volleyball player, adaptive athlete, and national team player.

PFW's Florio also has extensive experience with the United States Sitting Volleyball Team since 2015.

The discussion will include the economic and community impact of accessible sports tourism on Fort Wayne and other business aspects. This year's world cup will welcome more than 500 athletes from 21 countries.

Share the story:



Good to Know

Choi-Frank Students as Parents Childcare Support Award

Applications are being accepted for the Choi-Frank Students as Parents Childcare Support Award. For the past two years, the program has presented recipients with \$500 to pay for child care. Renewable each semester, the awards are based on need and not academic achievement. The criteria include a preference for PFW students enrolled full-time and a demonstrated need. Additional consideration is given to single parents. [Click here](#) to apply.

Student Appreciation Day at Mastodon Campus Store Is Thursday

Celebrate Student Appreciation Day on Thursday with special in-store savings just for students. Stock up on academic and personal needs and take advantage of a 25% discount on backpacks and drinkware. Every purchase includes a free gift, so be sure to bring a valid student ID to claim the reward. This exclusive event is only being offered in the store on the second floor of Walb Student Union.

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.

SEPTEMBER

25

Thurs., 2–4 p.m.

Kayak and Yap

Whether you're a seasoned kayaker or trying it for the first time, Kayak and Yap is all about enjoying our river, connecting with others, and soaking up the fresh air. Take a brain break and unwind! Sign-up required...

SEPTEMBER

26

Sept. 26, 27 & Oct. 2,3,4
8 p.m.
Sept. 28
2 p.m.

The Love Talker

Something sinister is lurking in the woods. In a small, isolated house surrounded by a dark forest deep in the Appalachian Mountains, two orphaned sisters live alone in this cautionary, coming-of-age fable reminiscent of the Brothers Grimm and Stephen King...

SEPTEMBER

30

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...

News Spotlight

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

PFW honors service members at Military Appreciation Day

21Alive | Sept. 18

Annual Constitution Day activities observed at Purdue Fort Wayne

21Alive and WANE 15 | Sept. 17

Conservation Conversation explores real solutions for the environmental future

WBOI 89.1 | Sept. 16

Mastodon Moments

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



Students send peaceful greetings from one of the many tents pitched adjacent to the Hefner Soccer Fields during a camping event sponsored by the Division of Enrollment Management and Student Experience on Sept. 12. Games, campfires with s'mores, a movie, and a delivered breakfast the following morning were included in all the fun.

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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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