



For Students

November 5, 2025



Help Recognize Those Who Serve at Tomorrow's Annual Event

The fifth "Serving Those Who Serve" at Purdue University Fort Wayne will be held Thursday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Sponsored by the Center for Veteran and Military Student Success, the event honors members of the campus community who are veterans and those in service-oriented degree programs or professions such as first response, social work, criminal justice, healthcare, and education.

The activities Thursday will include lunch, interactive craft stations, giveaways, and massages. They are open to all students, faculty, and staff.

"This special event is a heartfelt thank you to all of our service-oriented community members for their positive impact in the past, present, and future," said Nicole Welsh, senior compliance officer

in the **Center for Veteran and Military Student Success.**

The center works with more than 200 students with military backgrounds who are taking classes at PFW and estimates there could be another 200 on campus. It recently moved to Room 120 at Walb.

In July, PFW was recognized by the Indiana Commission for Higher Education and the state's Department of Veterans Affairs as a Collegiate Purple Star of Indiana recipient. This initiative recognizes eligible postsecondary institutions that have successfully demonstrated a supportive environment for their U.S. military-affiliated student populations, from applications to graduation.



PFW Leading the Way in U Can Crush Hunger Campaign

With only a couple of days remaining in the annual U Can Crush Hunger campaign, Purdue University Fort Wayne leads the field—but that's no reason to stop now!

This drive to fight hunger across northeast Indiana is hosted by the Community Harvest Food Bank. It's also a good-natured competition among eight local colleges and universities, based on pounds of canned goods collected. Monetary donations are also accepted; \$1 equals four pounds. The 2025 campaign concludes Friday.

As of the first weigh-in results released Monday, PFW had accumulated 27,336 pounds, compared to Indiana Tech's 12,044, and Indiana University Fort Wayne's 10,172.

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Sociology Students Engage Off Campus to Address Food Insecurity

Students in Sherrie Steiner's sociology classes are learning by reaching out to those who may come from different backgrounds. The associate professor of sociology is using a unique program that encourages them to work off campus.

Utilizing a grant from Community-Engaged Alliance and collaboration from the Fort Wayne Area Interfaith Cooperative, students in Steiner's principles of sociology and religious cosmopolitanism classes are hosting a community food drive to support multiple food pantries, including the FRIENDS of the University Pantry at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Since September, students have been visiting area religious institutions, sharing meals with church representatives, collecting donations, and providing speaking presentations. That includes engaging with 10 congregations through the end of November, culminating in a dinner with representatives from different faiths and elected officials to talk about food insecurity.

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First-Gen Day Honors Trailblazers

PFW's annual celebration of National First Gen Day will take place Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union. The university uses the event to encourage and honor students who are the first members of their families to attend college.

Almost 50% of PFW students do not have college education in their family history, creating a special set of struggles to overcome, as well as positive opportunities for economic mobility.

"Sometimes college can be very lonely and you can feel isolated, especially as first-generation students," said Giang Petroviak, executive director of Student Success Initiatives. "Being in a room not only with your peers, but also faculty and staff who have been in your shoes can help. Our hope is to provide that space for them to see that they are not alone and they have support all around them to get to graduation."

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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.

NOVEMBER

6

Thurs., 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

ETCS Next Generation Networking

This drop-in event is to informally network with the local companies interested in learning more about you and your major. Feel free to ask questions about the company, job opportunities, or the industry...

NOVEMBER

7

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. You'll find an eager crowd ready to play your favorites and teach whatever you want to learn...

NOVEMBER

11

Tues., 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Beads and Belonging

Make friendship bracelets with Student Conduct and Care! Take a break from stress, express yourself through creativity, and connect with others who care...

News Spotlight

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

Andy Katz's 2025–26 men's basketball conference champions predictions

ncaa.com | Saturday

PFW expands club sports, reviving athletic dreams

21Alive | Thursday

Stevenson dunk lands on SportsCenter Top 10

ESPN | Oct. 28

Allen County officials receive findings, proposed solutions from consolidated Fire/EMS Systems study

21Alive | Oct. 24

Mastodon Moments

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



A violinist from Middle Earth, poised for an eerie and enchanting musical performance, awaits the start of the annual Halloween concert by the University and Community Orchestra in Auer Performance Hall 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.

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