



For Students

January 14, 2026



Refurbished Kettler Computer Lab Offers New Options

The start of the spring semester at Purdue University Fort Wayne will give students a chance to take advantage of a refurbished computer lab in Kettler Hall, Room 217. Paid for by student technology fees, the space includes 1,600 square feet to study, hang out, and collaborate on projects.

This is one of **seven open labs** available for use on campus. There are four main open labs, one specialty lab, and other computer rooms, which students can use between classes. There's also a **digital map** to check on locations and availability.

The rebuild at Kettler took nearly three years from planning to completion, with the room split into thirds between a collaborative social space, a traditional computer lab, and a bring-your-own-computer area. There will be a mix of ~~12~~ Windows and Mac computers in the traditional area.

Along with updated carpeting, paint, and logos, new furniture recently arrived for the largest of PFW's seven open computer labs. Some of the tables are high-top café style.

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Ceramics Whiz Has Become an Internet Sensation

Teagan Koble's story has so many interesting places to start, but the most fascinating point may be where she's going to end up.

Three years ago, as a Garrett High School junior with blossoming skills for drawing and painting, Koble decided while sitting at a wheel to form a small bowl that she wanted to try ceramics.

"Afterward, I didn't want to do anything else," Koble said. "Now, I literally just make pottery all day, every day."

In fact, Koble loves staying late and coming in early to either Purdue University Fort Wayne's ceramics studio in the College of Visual and Performing Arts or the Community Learning Center in Kendallville, where she's co-manager of the ceramics studio. Koble said she is so thankful for the

opportunity every time she walks into a studio.

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Bischoff Honored with Named Term Professor Designation from Purdue

An international designation one Purdue University Fort Wayne faculty member helped secure for the institution in 2025 has led to a new, prestigious title. After a thorough review of his credentials, a unanimous endorsement from four of his colleagues—distinguished and named professors in their own right—a recommendation letter from PFW Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer, and a final stamp of approval from Purdue University Provost Patrick Wolfe, Shannon Bischoff, chair of the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, has been awarded the named term professor designation of UNESCO Chair on Rights Education among Indigenous and Non-Dominant Language Communities.

The purpose of professorships such as this is to enrich the intellectual environment of the

university by attracting and retaining exceptional faculty. Selection is based on outstanding original, creative, and productive achievements in scholarship and research that have been internationally recognized.

Bischoff, a professor of linguistics and anthropology, along with Mary Encabo Bischoff, director of the Teaching English as a New Language program, and Candace K. Galla, associate professor of Indigenous language and literacy at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, helped PFW last summer become just the 29th institution in the United States to be awarded a UNESCO Chair. There are more than 1,000 UNESCO Chairs worldwide. Purdue Fort Wayne's is the first and only in Indiana.

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Get Ready for One Mastodon-Sized Week of Fun, Jan. 26–31

Experience the thrill of Mastodon sports and high-energy student events during Homecoming 2026, a week-long celebration of school spirit! Enjoy exciting competitions, exclusive giveaways, and activities for everyone, culminating in the homecoming game on Jan. 31 at Memorial Coliseum.

Check the **full schedule of events** on the Purdue Fort Wayne Homecoming page to join the festivities.

Nominations Open Friday for 2026 Student Leader Awards

Do you have what it takes to be the Student Leader of the Year? Does your student organization deserve to be recognized for all it has done?

Nominations open Friday for the 2026 Student Leader Awards. Nominate yourself, peers, staff, and faculty for awards to celebrate accomplishments during this academic year. View the various **award descriptions** and submit nominations **via this form**, which will go live at 8 a.m. on Friday and remain open until 5 p.m. on Feb. 20. All nominees will receive an invitation to the banquet on April 27.

For more information, visit the **awards webpage** or contact Abbey Wang, director of student life and leadership, at **wangal@pfw.edu**.

Important Honors Program Information

Each of these Honors Program deadlines is Jan. 30:

- **H-Option contracts:** Contact Farah Combs, program director, after you get the initial approval from your professor to start the contract.
- **Spring 2026 scholarship applications:** Begin the **application process** and access the information about the **different scholarships**. Students must have successfully completed at least three (3) PFW honors credits to be eligible to apply for honors scholarships.
- **Honors project proposals:** If you are a graduating senior pursuing the honors certificate, access the **printable form** and view examples from previous years **here**.

Other important information:

- Spring 2026 Honors Project Showcase presentations will be held in the Honors Center at Helmke Library, Room 211, tentatively between April 7 and 10.
- Students who are planning to participate in the pinning ceremony should **submit an application** for the honors pin no later than Jan. 23. Students must have already successfully completed nine (9) honors credits to be eligible.
- Virtual information sessions will be held Jan. 23 from 10 to 10:30 a.m. and noon to 12:30 p.m., as well as Jan. 26 from 9 to 9:30 a.m. **Click here** to RSVP.
- The Honors Convocation will take place Feb. 23 at noon in Liberal Arts Building, Room 159.

A Pre-Professional Information Session will be held Feb. 2. Additional details will be shared soon.

- The Art Friedel Honors Experiential Learning Award application deadline is Feb. 27. [Download the application.](#)

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.

JANUARY	Celebrate National Popcorn Day with SAB
20	Pop on over to celebrate National Popcorn Day with SAB! We're turning the student lounge at Walb Union into a snack sanctuary on Tuesday. It's the perfect mid-day break to grab some fresh kernels, meet the team, and find out what else we have planned for the semester...
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JANUARY	Prepare Your Résumé for the U.S. Market
22	Looking for an on-campus job? Getting ready for graduation and want to stand out with employers? Listen to an expert from the Career Development Center as they help you prepare your résumé so that it meets the expectations of U.S. employers. The workshop is geared towards international students, but all are welcome to attend...
Thurs., 2–3 p.m.	

News Spotlight

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

Purdue Fort Wayne license plate among new BMV designs for Hoosiers

WANE 15 | Jan. 2

PFW planning to add 10 new club sports in 2026

FOX 55 | Dec. 25

Mastodon Magic! Purdue Fort Wayne upsets Notre Dame, 72–69

WANE 15 | Dec. 21

Mastodon Moments

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



Students can now check in at the front desk of the Career Development Center in Walb Student Union to obtain a head shot for professional uses such as LinkedIn or résumés. Students can provide their email address to receive the free portrait.

[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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