



For Faculty and Staff

January 15, 2026



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.

[READ MORE](#)

Share the story: [!\[\]\(3dfb8d66e81160ad61421a3452093d1b_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(21ece2018b00c7267b3324c50bbed633_img.jpg\)](#) [!\[\]\(074da87f0b7a74793bdf823413604aae_img.jpg\)](#)



Homecoming Door Decorating Competition

Homecoming 2026 at Purdue Fort Wayne, Jan. 26–31, is the time to show Mastodons of the past, present, and future what school spirit at PFW is all about! One way to do that is by taking part in the annual door decorating competition.

There are two categories—departments and individuals—with a limit of one door per registration. Departments should include one door that will be decorated within the unit, and individuals should complete an additional registration for a different door.

Important Dates:

- Homecoming Week is Jan. 26–31.
- Registration will be open until Jan. 22.
- Judging will take place on Jan. 27 and 28.
- Doors should be completed by the end of the day on Jan. 26 so that their beauty can be captured for judging and social media throughout the week.

Awards:

- The department winner will receive a traveling trophy and recognition at the men's basketball game on Jan. 31 versus Robert Morris.
- The individual winner will also be recognized that afternoon and awarded a certificate and \$25 Fresh Ideas voucher.

Learn more about all the activities on the [Homecoming 2026 website](#).

[REGISTER A DOOR](#)

Learn about the 21st Century Scholars Program

The Office of Student Success Initiatives and the 21st Century Scholars program invite faculty and staff to a lunch and learn session about 21st Century Scholars and the requirements of the scholarship. The event will be Wednesday (1.21) from noon to 1 p.m. in Walb Student Union, Room G21.

Attendees are invited to bring any questions they have concerning the scholarship, requirements, situations they have had with students, and other considerations. The goal is to provide a clearer understanding of the requirements and ways the scholarship works in order to assist with guiding students during course planning and registration.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Mileage Reimbursement Rate Change in Effect for 2026

The 2026 mileage rate for Purdue University business travel using a privately owned vehicle is \$0.725 per mile, up from \$0.70 per mile in 2025. The rate is based on both fixed and variable costs of operating a vehicle.

The Indiana Department of Administration mileage rate for using privately owned vehicles on sponsored program grant funds can be found [online](#).

Questions may be directed to Purdue Travel at purdutravel@purdue.edu.

Purdue Travelers Required to Have Real ID to Avoid Fees Beginning Feb. 1

As previously announced, airlines began requiring travelers to present a valid state-issued Real ID or other acceptable form of identification on May 7, 2025.

Starting Feb. 1, the Transportation Security Administration will charge passengers \$45 to use an alternative identity verification method if one of the acceptable IDs is not provided. These individuals are expected to have increased wait times at airports.

Purdue travelers are urged to obtain a Real ID if they have not done so already and should be aware that \$45 alternative identify verification fees will not be reimbursed by the university.

For more information on Real ID and other acceptable documents, [**visit the TSA website**](#).

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

In a Snap

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



A sudden snow squall near the Science Mall greets walkers during the lunch hour on Wednesday.

[News Center](#)



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[Athletics](#)



[Ripples](#)



Inside PFW is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to inside@pfw.edu no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the PFW [News Center](#).

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