



For Faculty and Staff

January 20, 2026



TENL Program Partners with Local Charities to Support New Citizens

Purdue University Fort Wayne's Teaching English as a New Language program is known for reaching across the world through online classes to places like Myanmar, Thailand, Japan, the Philippines, China, India, Poland, and Ukraine. The classes open opportunities for both PFW students and their pupils from abroad.

But a relatively new offshoot of **TENL** is helping newcomers to the United States build community with an on-campus class. Working in conjunction with Catholic Charities, as many as 30 immigrants are taking free classes twice weekly to work on speaking and writing English. They came from various countries to build new lives but understanding and using the language is essential.

"We take a lot of things for granted here in Fort Wayne, and one of those is language," said Mary Encabo Bischoff, clinical assistant professor of linguistics and director of TENL. "For many people who are adjusting to live in the U.S., language is one of the biggest barriers, so to provide this opportunity to our community is truly a blessing for us as a campus. We have the spaces, we have the students, and we have the heart for service."

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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.

JANUARY

21

Wed., 1–3 p.m.

PFW Gives Back: Kit Assembly for FWCS

Help assemble winter kits—such as hats, gloves, and apparel—for underhoused Fort Wayne Community Schools students...

JANUARY

22

Thurs., 4:30–6:30 p.m.

Opening Reception for "Not Talking Out of School: The Hector and Carol Garcia Retrospective"

Featuring never-before-seen pieces from their private collections, this special exhibition celebrates the lives and creativity of Fort Wayne artists and educators Hector and Carol Garcia...

In a Snap

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



Students line up at the Mastodon Campus Store Wednesday to buy supplies for the new semester, a clear sign of the big role it plays supporting life on campus.

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Inside PFW is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW 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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