



Rick Wiegmann named chief of PFW's University Police Department

Purdue University Fort Wayne announced today that Rick A. Wiegmann II has been named chief of the university's police department. Wiegmann most recently served as the university's interim police chief and has held the rank of sergeant since joining the university in 2009.

"It is a pleasure to officially name Rick Wiegmann as our Chief of Police," said Ron Elsenbaumer, chancellor of Purdue Fort Wayne. "As interim chief during the past several months, Chief Wiegmann has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the safety and well-being of our Mastodon community. His deep-rooted understanding of our campus culture and his focus on fostering trust through respectful, approachable policing make him the ideal leader to guide our university police department into the future."

Chief Wiegmann is a veteran of the Purdue Fort Wayne Police Department with more than 16 years of service to the campus community. Throughout his tenure, he has held various leadership roles focusing on all aspects of campus safety and security, while recognizing the importance of engaging with students, faculty, and staff to build trust and confidence in the department.

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Elisabeth Honn Hoegberg Appointed Dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts

Purdue University Fort Wayne today announced the appointment of Elisabeth Honn Hoegberg as dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, effective July 1, 2026. The announcement was made by Carl Drummond, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

"We are thrilled to welcome Elisabeth Hoegberg to Purdue Fort Wayne," said Drummond. "Her distinguished record of academic leadership, her deep commitment to the performing arts, and her passion for community engagement make her ideally suited to lead CVPA into its next chapter. We are confident that under her direction, the college will continue to thrive as a vibrant center

for artistic excellence and innovation.”

Hoegberg currently serves as director of the School of Music, Theatre and Dance and as associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences for the fine and performing arts at Oakland University. In those roles, she has demonstrated exemplary academic and administrative leadership, spearheading high-impact initiatives that have elevated the arts both on campus and in the surrounding community.

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New PFW Program Empowers Local Teachers to Better Support Students with Autism

There are always times when leading a classroom is challenging and stressful, and often those are the times when Northrop High School teacher Jared McMullen hears Rama Cousik in the back of his mind.

“You hear her voice saying, ‘You need to look past the behavior and look at the cause of it. Look

for the seeds of it," McMullen said.

Last summer, McMullen, M.S. '25, and Kristen Bakehorn, B.S. '19, an instructor at Blackhawk Middle School, leaned into the Purdue University Fort Wayne School of Education's recently established autism concentration. Cousik, an associate professor of special education, taught a six-week online course this summer, and both Bakehorn and McMullen enrolled in it as an elective toward their master's degrees.

"I definitely gained some new perspective from the class in a way that would be very applicable," Bakehorn said. "I have a handful of kids each year who are diagnosed with autism, and it was very interesting to take the things we talked about and apply it directly."

Asked how quickly he was able to apply the skills, McMullen said it was on the first day of school.

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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.

MARCH

27, 28

Fri. and Sat., 7:30
p.m.

Opera Today! Presents a Gian Carlo Menotti Double

Company-in-residence Opera Today! presents a special evening showcasing a double feature of short operas by Gian Carlo Menotti —"Amahl and the Night Visitors" and "The Telephone"...

MARCH

29

Sun., noon–3 p.m.

Mid-America Guitar Ensemble Festival 2026 Closing Concert

Featuring classical guitar ensembles from the Midwest region. This concert will premiere "Creative Endeavour, a Dramatic Suite in Four Movements" for guitar orchestra, composed and conducted by Kevin McMahon. Directed by Laura Lydy...

In a Snap

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



V Spehar brought their signature "Under the Desk News" approach to the Auer Performance Hall on Monday evening, serving as the final speaker of the 2025–26 Omnibus Speaker Series. During their presentation, "Sound It Out," Spehar shared essential tips on how to recognize, interpret, and filter out manipulated content, especially in the escalating environment of AI.

News Center



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Athletics



Ripples



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