



For Students

April 22, 2026



Kaur's Story Opens the Door to Life-Changing Opportunities

Most people might see Cassie Kaur sitting in her College of Science classes at Purdue Fort Wayne and assume she's a completely normal, stereotypical student.

But her story is anything but ordinary.

Kaur was 17 years old when she decided to drop out of high school the summer before her junior year. Dealing with some issues, including depression, made attending class difficult. She tried online learning, which didn't work either. A guidance counselor suggested Kaur try for her general equivalency diploma, but, lacking confidence, Kaur decided that seemed quite the stretch.

She started working full-time at a fast-food restaurant, in a way, following her mother's example. A single mother of three children who worked in restaurant management, Kaur's mother also set

an example by taking night courses to earn a teaching degree.

Working full-time, while picking up any overtime she could, Kaur remembers one of her co-workers telling her she could see Kaur working in fast food the rest of her life. It wasn't said maliciously, just as an observation of how her life might turn out. The comment hit like an uppercut and motivated Kaur to take the GED test at age 18, where she shocked herself by passing with honors in writing, reading, and math.

The results were life-changing.

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Justin Bruger, chief financial officer for City Utilities, (left) recently presented Purdue University Fort Wayne student Truman Wirtz with the Mayor Tom Henry Scholarship for maintaining a high grade point average and his community service work.

[Wirtz Found His Dream Job Working for the City](#)

Not many students can say they get to walk into work every day in the heart of Fort Wayne and Allen County government, but Truman Wirtz has gained a reputation for being earnest, efficient, and for handling some dirty jobs.

No, the Purdue University Fort Wayne senior is not a politician but rather an intern in the City Utilities engineering department. For six hours each day, the business economics major works on mapping public infrastructure projects such as water and sewer mains and storm lines.

In other words, Wirtz provides and updates the maps for everything buried beneath Fort Wayne's streets. His work enables field workers to access the maps digitally on site to see what they might encounter when building and repairing streets.

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Purdue Fort Wayne Names 2026 Summit Scholars, Awarding Top Students Full-Ride Scholarships

Purdue University Fort Wayne has announced the recipients of its prestigious 2026 Summit

Scholars awards, recognizing a select group of incoming students for their exceptional academic achievement, leadership, and commitment to service.

The Summit Scholars Program is one of the university's most distinguished and competitive scholarship initiatives, designed to attract and support high-achieving students through a rigorous and personalized educational experience. Scholars are selected through a highly competitive process and represent some of the most accomplished high school seniors in the region and beyond.

Summit Scholars compete for two of Purdue Fort Wayne's most prestigious full-ride scholarships: the Chapman Scholarship and the Doermer Distinguished Scholarship. These merit-based awards provide full tuition, on-campus housing, textbooks, a food stipend, and fees for up to four years.

[VIEW THE RECIPIENTS](#)

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Celebrate Your Journey at Senior Send-off 2026

Congratulations, Class of 2026! It's time to celebrate you and your journey as a Mastodon. To

celebrate our graduating seniors, the university will host this year's Senior Send-off and Celebration on April 29 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

Graduating students can enjoy food, drinks, photo ops, cap decorating, postgraduation resources, and a senior gift.

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.

APRIL

23

Thurs., 6–8 p.m.

Pop & Rock Supershow #2

This high-energy concert will feature popular music ensembles delivering an exciting mix of classic covers and original hits, making for an unforgettable night of pop and rock entertainment...

APRIL

26

Sun., 7:30–9 p.m.

PFW Jazz Combo Spring Concert

PFW Jazz Combo presents a concert of classic jazz repertoire from the 1950's to the present. Individual improvisational creativity is explored in a variety of styles, including bebop, modal, Latin jazz, and jazz-funk...

APRIL

29

Wed., 7–9 p.m.

SAB April Bingo Blowout

Get ready to shout BINGO! Join the Student Activities Board for our thrilling Bingo Blowout event! We're bringing the excitement with amazing prizes, endless fun, and great company. You definitely won't want to miss this...

Mastodon Moments

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



Students took a break to try their luck at the "Dons in Vegas" casino night in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union, marking the start of SAB's Spring Fling week of events.

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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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