



For Faculty and Staff

August 19, 2026



New Mastodons Are Officially on Their Way!

[WATCH VIDEO](#)



Mastodon Minute: Rachel Blakeman Discusses How the Community Research Institute Helps Leaders Make Informed Decisions

Research and analysis, grant funding, and community improvement are just a few of the ways that the **Community Research Institute** at Purdue University Fort Wayne helps local leaders make informed decisions.

WATCH VIDEO

Campus Kickoff Volunteer Opportunities

Campus Kickoff is almost here, and the Student Activities Board is seeking staff and faculty volunteers to help welcome students back to campus. Volunteer roles may include checking students in, distributing food and giveaways, assisting with waivers, and helping with setup and teardown.

Please note: To keep student activity fee funding focused on serving our students, food and giveaways are reserved for students and event volunteers only. Staff and faculty must sign up and serve as volunteers to receive event food or giveaways.

Thank you for your continued support of our students and campus community! If you have questions, please contact Abbey Wang at wangal@pfw.edu.

Volunteer sign-up links and event details are listed below.

Monday, August 24: Campus Kickoff

Sign-up Link

Location: Science Mall

Time: 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Giveaway: PFW T-shirt

Food: Boxed lunches

Wednesday, August 26: Rec Fest

Sign-up Link

Location: Science Mall

Time: 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Giveaway: Rec Fest T-shirt

Food: Ice Cream

Thursday, August 27: Slip & Slide into the New School Year

Sign-up Link

Location: Student Housing

Time: 5:30–8:30 p.m.

Giveaway: Waterproof phone pouches

Food: Popsicles

Friday, August 28: Movie on the Lawn

Sign-up Link

Location: Science Mall

Time: 7:30–11 p.m.

Giveaway: blankets (limited quantity, only for students)

Food: Popcorn, pretzels with cheese, nachos with cheese, hot dogs, candy

Tuesday, September 1: Splash Bash

Sign-up Link

Location: Student Housing

Time: 6–8 p.m.

Food: Ice cream

Wednesday, September 2: Campus Connections Fair

Sign-up Link

Location: Science Mall

11 a.m.–2 p.m.

Giveaway: Fidget spinners and phone fans

Food: Walking tacos

Thursday, September 3: Party at the Pitch

Sign-up Link

Location: Hefner Field

Time: 4–8 p.m.

Giveaway: Jersey shirts

Food: Food trucks



Students Will Start the Semester with Food, Fun, and New Connections

From rock-wall climbing and a giant foam pit to an outdoor movie under the stars, Purdue Fort Wayne students will have plenty of opportunities to celebrate the start of the fall semester.

The Office of Student Life and Leadership has at least six events planned between Aug. 24 and Sept. 2, giving new and returning students opportunities to meet others, discover campus resources, and create memories beyond the classroom.

"College is way more than just a degree," said Abbey Wang, director of student life and leadership. "Half of the fun of college is taking part in these kinds of events, meeting new people and creating your own college experience."

[READ THE DETAILS](#)

Share the story:





Add Events Now to Kick Off a Great Year

PFW's comprehensive **events calendar** is an effective tool in the university's efforts to invite current and future students, faculty, staff, and guests to take advantage of the Mastodon experience.

Colleges, schools, departments, and academic units are strongly encouraged to take full advantage of this opportunity. It's never too early for calendar publishers to start adding events for the upcoming fall semester.

Questions and information about publisher training may be directed to webmaster@pfw.edu.

Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events

W. Paul Wolf Field Naming

August 31 | 10 a.m.

Convocation

August 31 | Noon

Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

September 1 | 11 a.m.

DSB Open House

September 8 | 10 a.m.

Good to Know

Retirement Open House Honoring Bruce Arnold is Today

The Department of Biological Sciences will host a retirement open house for Bruce Arnold today,

August 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Alumni Center, 1528 E. California Rd. The event honors his 40 years of service to the university. Everyone is welcome to attend.

CARE Team Available for Classroom Presentations

If you would like the CARE Team to visit your classroom to discuss how they can support students, contact the CARE Team at pfwcare@pfw.edu. The team is also available to present to faculty and staff during meetings, retreats, etc.

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Augustana Burger, music tech operations manager | School of Music
- Andrew Wiley, employee relations administrator | Human Resources

In a Snap

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



Purdue Fort Wayne and The Trace hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Monday morning to celebrate the grand opening of PFW's premier student residential community. Following the ceremony, guests toured the fully furnished apartment-style spaces.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



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 are available in the PFW **News Center**.

Inside PFW is produced each Wednesday 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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