

For Faculty and Staff October 20, 2026



Josh Peck Kicks Off 2026–27 Omnibus Speaker Series

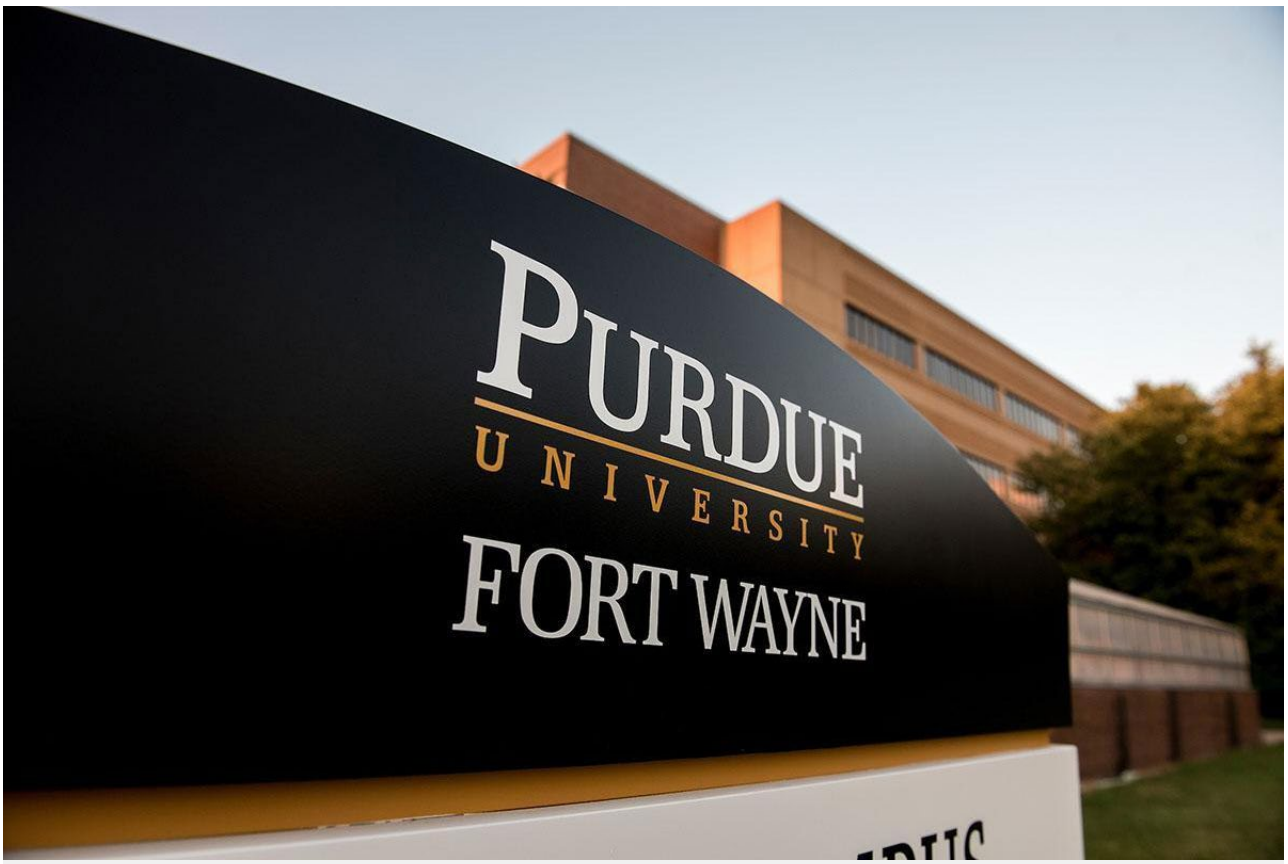
Actor, comedian, and author Josh Peck kicked off Purdue University Fort Wayne's 2026–27 Omnibus Lecture Series with an evening of stories, humor, and advice.

In this recap, Peck talks about finding your voice as a young actor or creator, what he wishes he could tell his 18-year-old self, and why working toward a dream sometimes means accepting a few sleepless nights.

He also shares humorous observations from his time in Indiana and Fort Wayne, so stick around until the end.

See highlights from the event and hear more from Peck in our conversation before he took the Omnibus stage.

WATCH VIDEO



Purdue Fort Wayne Selected for $10,000 Grant to Help Students Facing Financial Emergencies

Purdue University Fort Wayne has been selected to receive a $10,000 grant through the Ellucian Foundation's 2026 PATH Scholarship program to help students facing financial hardship remain enrolled and continue working toward their educational goals.

The funding will work alongside PFW's Zielinski Student Emergency Fund, expanding the university's ability to assist students whose financial circumstances could interrupt their studies. Individual awards of up to $2,500 can provide targeted assistance for immediate needs, supplementing other available grant support.

The PATH Scholarship program, which stands for Progress, Accomplishment, Thriving, Hope, provides grants to colleges and universities to support students experiencing financial distress. The funding is used entirely for student support and does not replace other grant assistance.

READ MORE

Share the story:



The Holidays Are Right Around the Corner, and Adopt-a-Don/Fox Registration Is Open!

The Adopt-a-Don and Adopt-a-Fox Holiday Project is a charitable project that assists selected students during the holiday season. We are asking our faculty, staff, campus departments, and student organizations to "adopt" our students and their families for the 2026 holiday season. Faculty, staff, campus departments, and student organizations can register to adopt a Don/Fox until Oct. 30 by clicking this **Adopter Registration Link**.

Timeline:

- Oct. 5–30: Open registration for adopters and adoptees
- Oct. 31–Nov. 5: Selection committee selects adoptees/match families
- Nov. 6: Adopters are notified of their adoptees and given wish lists; adoptees are notified if they are selected
- Nov. 6–Dec. 1: Gift drop-off to Walb Union 118
- Dec. 5: Gift distribution during the Jingle Jubilee celebration

For those interested in nominating a student for this holiday project, please have them register using the **Adoptee Registration Link**.

The Adopt-a-Don/Fox committee thanks you in advance for your generosity and time. If you have questions, please email **jingle@pfw.edu**. For more information, please visit **pfw.edu/adopt-**

don.



FRIENDS of the University Celebrates 50 Years

The FRIENDS of the University has announced a new event to celebrate the 50th anniversary of FRIENDS and recognize the campus partnerships, fundraising efforts, and members who make this group so special.

Tuesday, Nov. 17
5–7 p.m.
FRIENDS Rehearsal Hall
Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Center
Purdue Fort Wayne Campus

This event is free, and you're welcome to attend. Kindly RSVP to **friends@pfw.edu** by Nov. 6.

LEARN MORE ABOUT FRIENDS

Free Write a Will Day Set for Oct. 22

Purdue Fort Wayne will offer a free Write a Will Day on Oct. 22 at the Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse Mastodon Alumni Center.

Attorney Josh White of Barnes & Thornburg LLP will help participants prepare a simple will at no charge when they include at least one charitable gift in their will. The event offers an opportunity to document wishes for loved ones while supporting a meaningful cause.

Appointments are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and time slots fill quickly. To schedule an appointment, email **development@pfw.edu**.

PFW Faculty and Staff Walking Club

The PFW Walking Club, organized by One to One Health Coach Ethan Delatorre, is a supportive, community-based program that builds healthy habits through regular walking.

Get moving and connect with your colleagues on the Gates Center 2nd floor track! Join us every Tuesday and Thursday from noon to 1 p.m. through Dec. 17. It's the perfect workday break—come walk for the full hour or just a few minutes, chat with coworkers, and stay active at your own pace.

SIGN UP TO PARTICIPATE

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.

OCTOBER
21
Wed., 7:30–9 p.m.

Vocal Division Showcase: Protest Songs

The best voices at PFW assemble to share favorite songs of revolution, revolt, and social change. You don't want to miss this show...

OCTOBER

23

Fri., 4:30–7 p.m.

2026 COLA Oktoberfest Alumni and Junior/Senior Student Mixer

This special fall networking event is designed to connect current junior and senior students with alumni, faculty, and staff to build and strengthen career networks and highlight the success of our liberal arts graduates.,,

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OCTOBER

24

Sat., 2–4 p.m.

Annual High School Juried Exhibition Opening Reception

The PFW Department of Art and Design is hosting an exhibition of the best art and design work by regional high school artists. To encourage and challenge young artists to keep striving for artistic excellence, accepted works are eligible for a variety of awards presented during the opening reception...

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Olivia Perrine, warehouse laborer and operations clerk | Shipping and Receiving

In a Snap

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



The International Ballroom was completely filled for yet another night of SAB Bingo. But this was the annual Halloween edition, and the victor of the very competitive costume competition was none other than Papa Smurf,

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UPDATE YOUR PLATE!



LEARN MORE

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 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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