

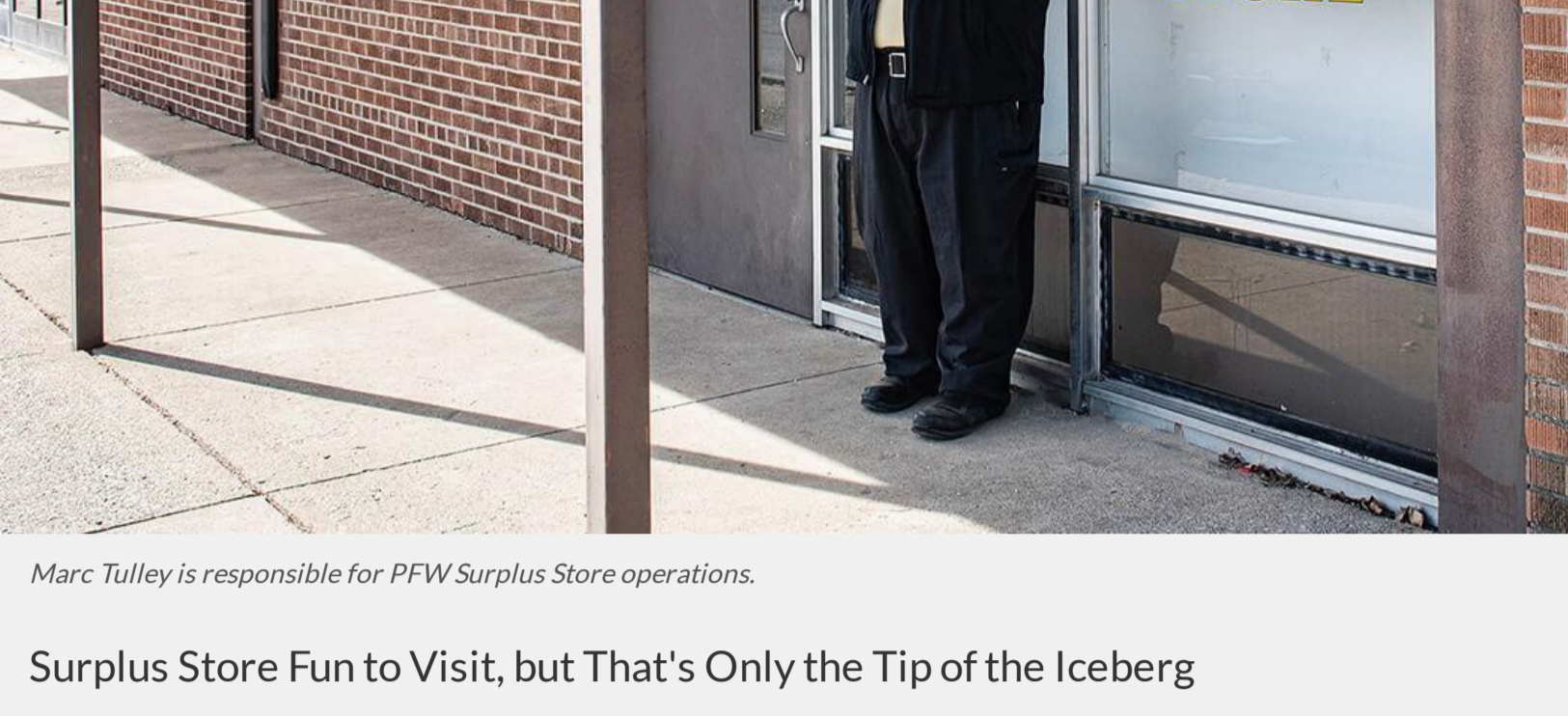


Disability Access Center a Recipient of 2023 Focus Award

Given annually since 2001 to individuals and entities affiliated with Purdue University who have made an outstanding contribution to furthering the system's commitment to disability accessibility and diversity, the Focus Award recognizes achievement in four categories: faculty, staff, student, and organization. The 2023 recipient of the Focus Award for organization is the **Disability Access Center** at Purdue Fort Wayne.

"Under the guidance of Ryan McCombs, the DAC team is so deserving for the way they have transformed service to students with disabilities on our campus," said Krissy Surface, vice chancellor for enrollment management and the student experience.

In its notification letter, the Office of Institutional Equity at Purdue recognized the DAC for going above and beyond to make PFW an accessible campus and to ensure that **students** and faculty are fully supported in this regard. All recipients of Focus Awards between 2021 and 2023 were honored during a reception in West Lafayette on Tuesday.



Marc Tulley is responsible for PFW Surplus Store operations.

Surplus Store Fun to Visit, but That's Only the Tip of the Iceberg

Mostly underrecognized in the Fort Wayne area, the Purdue University Fort Wayne Surplus Store represents the public's opportunity to see one aspect of the campus's sustainability efforts in action—reduce, reuse, recycle, repurpose. Since 2009, the operation has been a leader in diverting hundreds of tons of materials—otherwise considered trash—from local landfills to find new purpose.

The store tries to be open to the public about one Friday per month. However, for campus departments, it's open by appointment every Monday through Wednesday by calling 260-481-0796.

Approximately 2,000 followers are notified of sales via the PFW Surplus Store Facebook page, typically a week or so prior to the event. Photos of current items are included in the postings.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

'Our Voices, Our Stories' Women's Conference March 22

Four compelling Purdue University Fort Wayne leaders will be among the featured speakers at the "Our Voices, Our Stories" women's conference on March 22. Offered in conjunction with **Women's History Month**, the free event runs from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

Topics for the conference include considering the different needs and life expectancies of women, long-term financial planning, finding power from within, and taking a look at how women have contributed to the educational system historically and in the present.

"Women in Education," starting at 1 p.m., will be led by Isabel Nuñez, dean of the PFW School of Education.

Another discussion called "The Legacy of Rosie the Riveter—Envisioning a More Balanced Workplace" will be led by Melissa Gruys, dean of the Doermer School of Business, and Shubitha Kever, associate chief diversity officer. It starts at 1:30 p.m. and explores how that legacy is relevant today in helping identify barriers unique to women. This presentation will be followed by open brainstorming on ways to make the campus space more inclusive and supportive of women.

At 2:15 p.m., Tracey Hanton, associate director of the Career Development Center, will close the conference with a vision board workshop to help participants narrow their focus and envision goals.

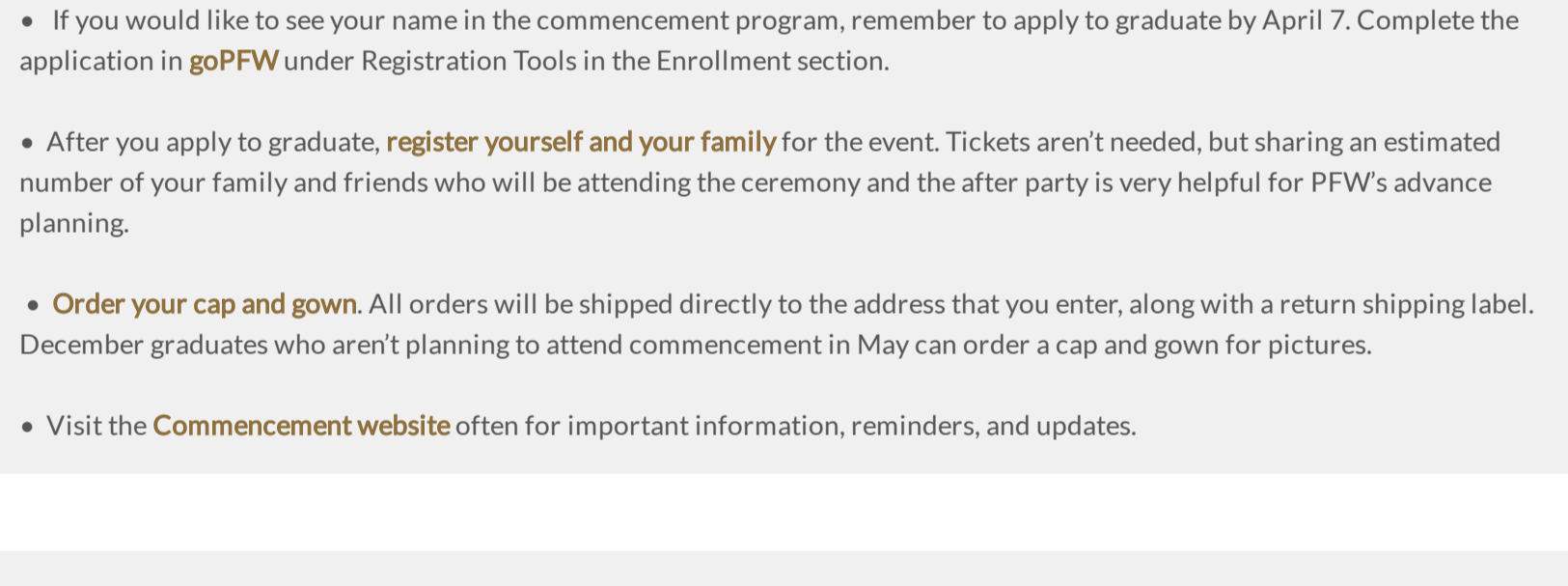
[Click here](#) for a full agenda.

Same-day registration and coffee starts at 10 a.m. A networking lunch begins at 12:30 p.m.; boxed lunches will be provided to those who **register by March 17**.

The conference is sponsored by the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion, The Women's Center, the Doermer School of Business, and the Career Development Center. It is open to all faculty, staff, and students. All genders are welcome.

There are 18 events being hosted on campus to celebrate Women's History Month. You can find a link to the **full calendar of events** on the Women's History Month webpage.

Graduating This Spring? Here's What You Need to Know



Purdue Fort Wayne's 2023 Commencement will take place on May 10 at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. If you're planning to participate, here are a few things you need to know:

- If you would like to see your name in the commencement program, remember to apply to graduate by April 7. Complete the application in **goPFW** under Registration Tools in the Enrollment section.

- After you apply to graduate, **register yourself and your family** for the event. Tickets aren't needed, but sharing an estimated number of your family and friends who will be attending the ceremony and the after party is very helpful for PFW's advance planning.

- Order your cap and gown.** All orders will be shipped directly to the address that you enter, along with a return shipping label. December graduates who aren't planning to attend commencement in May can order a cap and gown for pictures.

- Visit the **Commencement website** often for important information, reminders, and updates.

Campus-wide Emergency Alert Test Scheduled for Tuesday



As part of Indiana's observance of **Severe Weather Preparedness Week**, March 12–18, Purdue Fort Wayne will conduct a semiannual test of its emergency notification system to coincide with the statewide tornado drill at 10:15 a.m. on Tuesday.

In the event of severe or inclement weather, the test will be rescheduled for the following day.

Procedures to follow during a tornado are available by [clicking here](#). Additional information can be found on the university's **Emergency Preparedness** website.

If you haven't already done so, please consider signing up to receive **Rave emergency alerts** via text message, which arrive much faster and with greater reliability than automated phone calls.

Don Dates

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the Don Dates website often to see what's happening on campus.

MARCH

14

Tues., 4–8 p.m.

Snacks and Study

Need a place to study? The Multicultural Center provides free snacks and a place to study every Tuesday to help support your academic success...

MARCH

15

Wed., 4–5 p.m.

Black Card Revoked

Join this friendly competition about African American Pop Culture. You will need a smart phone or laptop to log in to the Kahoot game to participate. ...

News Spotlight

A sampling of external news coverage of Purdue University Fort Wayne.

PFW Community Research Institute supports Healthier Moms and Babies with infant mortality report
Fort Wayne-area media | Feb. 27

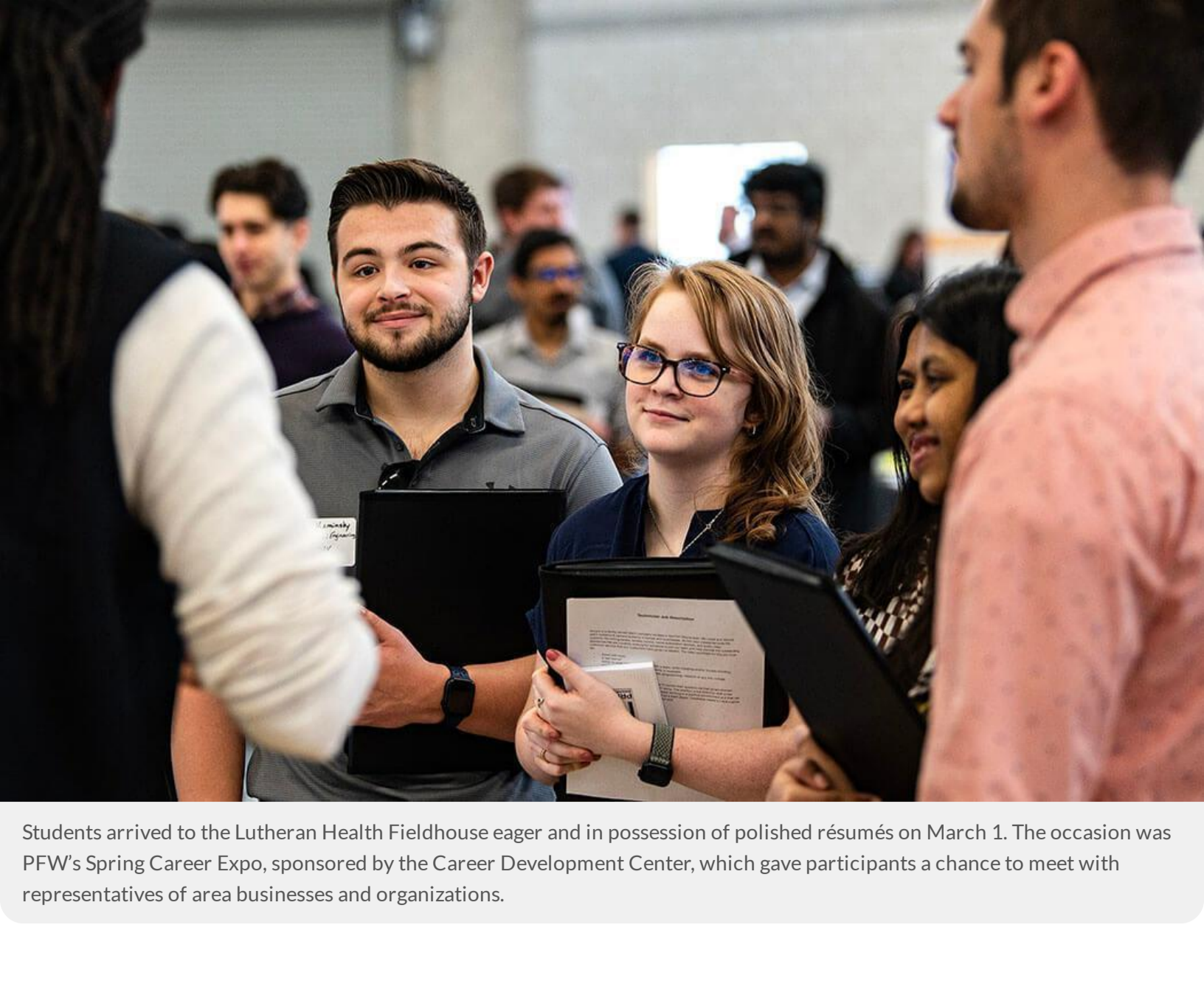
Experts from Purdue Fort Wayne discuss student loan relief
Fort Wayne-area media | Feb. 28

'Eats to the Beats' at PFW
21Alive | Feb. 28

Going down memory lane with the Dons at IU's Assembly Hall
ESPNU | Feb. 28

Mastodon Moments

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



Students arrived to the Lutheran Health Fieldhouse eager and in possession of polished résumés on March 1. The occasion was PFW's Spring Career Expo, sponsored by the Career Development Center, which gave participants a chance to meet with representatives of area businesses and organizations.

Athletics



Don Dates



News Center



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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