



## Grads Celebrate the Start of Something Big at PFW's 2023 Commencement

Commencement is about recognizing student accomplishments, but also fulfilling the dreams of parents who have held onto those ambitions for decades. Plenty of longtime goals were realized Wednesday as approximately 1,050 Purdue University Fort Wayne students—or nearly 75% of all those who will graduate this year—celebrated the completion of their degrees before a Memorial Coliseum crowd made up of thousands of family and friends.

"I feel tremendous pride and hope—hope for your success, hope for your future, hope for your good health, and hope for your happiness," Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer said as he addressed the largest commencement crowd of his six-year tenure. "This journey has brought you to a pivotal moment in your lives. Whatever comes next, you should be truly proud of all that you have learned and all that you have accomplished during your time here at Purdue Fort Wayne."

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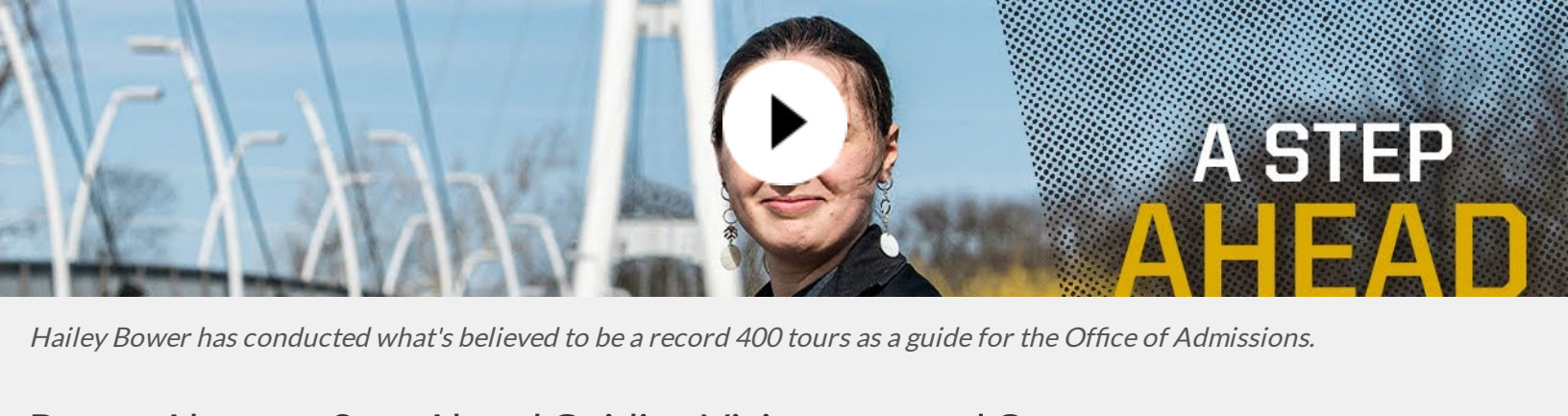
## Dan Boylan Wins Champions of Change Award for Education from the GFW Inc. Women's Network



Created to celebrate individuals who mentor and empower women in Allen County, the Champions of Change awards ceremony held Wednesday night at Ceruti's Summit Park included three finalists in the education category from Purdue University Fort Wayne—and the eventual winner. Dan Boylan, assistant professor of accounting in the Doermer School of Business, earned that honor presented by the Greater Fort Wayne Inc. Women's Network. This is the fifth year for the Champions of Change Awards, which also recognize achievement in the categories of corporate, public service, and nonprofit.

The other two PFW finalists in the education category were Melissa Gruys, dean of the Doermer School of Business, and Giang Petroviak, director of New Student Programs. Several other members of the university community were also in attendance to show their support, which was something Boylan acknowledged in his remarks to the large gathering.

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Hailey Bower has conducted what's believed to be a record 400 tours as a guide for the Office of Admissions.

## Bower Always a Step Ahead Guiding Visitors around Campus

When she walked across the stage at commencement on Wednesday, Hailey Bower graduated from Purdue Fort Wayne as one of the most visible Mastodons over the past four years. She has encouraged hundreds to follow in her footsteps on campus, literally and figuratively.

Sometime in March, the hospitality and tourism management major conducted her 400th tour as a guide for the Office of Admissions. It's assumed Bower holds the record, and no one is sure how many of the prospective students she's guided have ended up on campus, but she runs into them all the time.

"She'll go above and beyond to make each individual student feel welcome and appreciated," said Ryan Meriwether, assistant director of admissions events. "She makes sure that every student feels like they are represented no matter how many are on a tour."

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Rob Stone explains his research project at the Student Research and Creative Endeavor Symposium.

## Research of Long-Forgotten 'Irishtown' Illuminates New Career Path for PFW Student

After 27 years as an information technology professional, Rob Stone figured the pandemic was the perfect time to reassess.

"I got my first IT job, and 27 years later I blinked and was in my 50s and didn't have a degree," Stone said.

Without that degree, Stone could only rise so far in terms of title and pay structure in his position at the time—and he was burned out. Now 55, Stone had always loved studying in his position at the time—and he was burned out. Now 55, Stone had always loved studying in his position at the time—and he was burned out.

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## Recordings Now Available for Two Recent University Open Forums

Purdue Fort Wayne recently held two open forums to share important information and updates with faculty and staff. On April 26, university leadership assembled at Neff Hall to discuss how the annual budget process works and provide an overview of the current budget outlook for the 2023–24 academic year. A recording of that session can be viewed by [clicking here](#). Slides from this town hall are available [here](#).

On May 1, Jeff Malanson, special assistant to the chancellor for strategic initiatives, hosted a virtual open forum that recapped the university's 2022–23 Quality of Place efforts and shared the final recommendations of the Quality of Place Action Planning Team. A recording of that session is [available here](#); read a summary of the team's recommendations [here](#).

Check out all the latest information about PFW's strategic plan implementation efforts, updates on upcoming open forums, and links to recordings of past forums [online](#).

## News Spotlight

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

**Boost from biennial budget for PFW music building project draws media attention statewide**  
Local and state media | May 3, 4

**Reactions to Fort Wayne Philharmonic decision to move main performances to PFW**  
21Alive | May 3

## In a Snap

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



Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer (far left) and Dimples Smith, learning and development director for HR-OIE (far right), presented certificates to the latest group finishing the Supervise for Success program on Tuesday.

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Ripples



*Inside PFW* is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to [inside@pfw.edu](mailto:inside@pfw.edu) no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the PFW News Center by [clicking here](#).

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