



International Student Enrollment Reaches Record High

Including a 30-hour flight from India, and various disruptions caused by a delayed 2 a.m. arrival, things could have fallen apart for Tanvi Chandru Rawtani's in-person introduction to Purdue University Fort Wayne. Instead, the freshman found a friendly home.

"The PFW community is very warm and welcoming," Rawtani said. "I'm really, really poor with directions, and I'm always switching my rights and lefts and ending up in different places I don't want to be. And the people I've been asking for help have been very kind. This place is also very beautiful."

Rawtani represents the largest group of first-year international students in PFW history—182 from 22 countries—which adds to the university's diversity and intellectual distinction. In all, PFW has 499 international students hailing from 62 countries. There are 334 graduate students and 165 undergrads.

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The Fort Wayne Funk Orchestra showcased their selection of funk, hip-hop, rap, and soul tunes at Sunday's Mastodon Family Picnic.

Good Food, Good Music, Good Times at Mastodon Family Picnic

As Bears and Colts fans can probably attest, it's a pretty safe bet the Mastodon Family Picnic is a more enjoyable way to spend three hours on a Sunday afternoon than watching your favorite NFL team these days. For the second consecutive year, hundreds of members of the PFW university community—faculty, staff and their families—were greeted with sunny skies, tasty food, and incredible entertainment.

“What we're always trying to do is thank people for what they do on our campus,” Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer said. “I can't think of a better way we can do it where we can invite all faculty, all staff and all their families, and give them an opportunity to enjoy themselves.”

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Review Current Strategic Plan in Preparation for Oct. 30 Session

Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer kicked off the lead-up to PFW's Oct. 30 *Forward Together* strategic planning meeting with a **special message to the university community** on Thursday.

"This will be a great opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate the university's progress during the past few years and to plan the next chapter of our institution's future," Elsenbaumer wrote.

Now is a good time to take a self-guided refresher course on Purdue Fort Wayne's current strategic plan, *Empowering Transformation, Strategic Plan 2020-25*.

For any questions or suggestions, contact strategic planning design committee cochairs Farah Combs at combsf@pfw.edu, Joel Givens at givensj@pfw.edu, and Shubitha Kever at keevers@pfw.edu.

The Oct. 30 session will take place in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. A light breakfast, lunch, and refreshments will be provided, and there will be a wine and cheese reception immediately following the afternoon session.

As of Monday afternoon, more than 130 faculty, staff, and students had already registered to participate.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



First-Generation Celebration

In observance of the anniversary of the Higher Education Act of 1965, signed into law on Nov. 8 of that year, and its creation of the term “first-generation college student,” the entire campus community is invited to celebrate Purdue University Fort Wayne’s vibrant and thriving first-generation students, faculty, staff, and graduates.

A First-Generation Celebration will take place Nov. 8 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union. The event will include a photo booth, lunch, a group photo, and a panel discussion.

If you're a first-generation faculty or staff member who is planning to attend, be sure to **order a “Proudly First Gen” polo shirt** to wear on Nov. 8.

For more information, contact Shubitha Kever, associate chief diversity officer, at kevers@pfw.edu.

Become Disability Zone Trained This Semester

As an essential element of the Disability Access Center’s mission and vision for the Purdue Fort Wayne community. Disability Zone Training will be offered three more times this semester for PFW and IUFW faculty and staff.

Disability Zone Training provides an overview of frameworks for understanding disability status in the U.S., examples of everyday ableism, and research-based strategies for being in solidarity with the disability community in order to create a more disability-inclusive culture at PFW and IUFW.

Join the 200+ faculty and staff that have already completed the training by registering for one of the following sessions:

- **Oct. 19 | 1–4 p.m.** | Helmke Library IDEASpace

- **Nov. 8 | 9 a.m.–noon** | Helmke Library IDEASpace
- **Dec. 5 | 9 a.m.–noon** | Zoom

Questions? Contact the center at dac@pfw.edu.

Good to Know

CARE Team Informational Session

There's still time to register for a one-hour information session that will provide an overview of what the CARE Team is, who sits on the team, and what happens after a CARE referral is made. The in-person session will be Oct. 12 from 10 to 11 a.m. in Walb Student Union, Room 114. Contact pfwcare@pfw.edu to register.

Seasonal Flu Shots This Morning

On-campus **seasonal flu shots** for employees are available until noon today in the future PFW Center for Healthy Living, formerly called the Campus Health Clinic, which is located in Walb Student Union, Room 234. The shots are being administered by One to One Health from the Purdue West Lafayette Center for Healthy Living.

Faculty and Staff Portrait Session Today

If you would like to have your portrait taken, you may do so today from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The photographer will be set up on the north end of the skybridge connecting Helmke Library and Walb Student Union. This is a great opportunity for new faculty and staff to have professional portraits taken.

Featured Events

*There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. Some opportunities are exclusive to university employees and their families. Check the full **events calendar** often to see what's happening on campus.*

OCTOBER

3

Today, 11 a.m.–1 p.m.

Therapy Dog Visit

Take some time out of your day to relax, destress, and enjoy these furry friends...

OCTOBER

5

Thurs., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Morricone Youth ‘Night of the Living Dead’

With a repertoire of over 100 reinterpretations of film and television soundtracks and music production library recordings, Morricone Youth performs with projections thematically dedicated to specific composers or film music genres...

In a Snap

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



Students enjoyed pizza, yard games, and a fun bounce house at student housing’s Bounce Back event on Thursday.

News Center



Events Calendar



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 can be accessed in the **PFW News Center**.

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