



Campus Community Advances Forward Together

The Purdue Fort Wayne campus came together on Monday for a full day of presentations, sessions, and activities devoted to strategic planning. More than 250 faculty, staff, and students were in attendance.

The day's agenda and programming were developed by the Strategic Planning Design Committee, led by co-chairs Farah Combs, Joel Givens, and Shubitha Kever.

The positive tone for the day was set by a **moving video** produced by the Office of Communications and Marketing that featured numerous individuals from across the university expressing their thoughts on what makes our students special, what makes them proud to work at Purdue Fort Wayne, and what excites them about the future.

Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer then provided an **overview of the university's accomplishments** over the past few years, with a primary focus on initiatives and achievements related to the university's current strategic plan that grew out of a similar all-day strategic planning session in 2019.

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Theresa Payton Excited for Omnibus Experience

Though it may sound odd, one of the world's leading experts on technology and cybersecurity says she often learns just as much from the audience as they do from her during presentations. Their questions often send the discussions off on fascinating tangents, sort of the way artificial intelligence seems to be branching into all aspects of humanity.

"The Q&A session is dessert for me, my favorite part," said Theresa Payton. "I find the dialogue to be the nexus of where you can have the biggest impact. I learn so much from the questions I receive on the road."

Payton, who became the first female White House chief information officer while serving former President George W. Bush, will be the Omnibus Speaker Series presenter on Tuesday in Purdue University Fort Wayne's Auer Performance Hall. Tickets to the 7:30 p.m. event are free and available through PFW's [Schatzlein Box Office](#) or its [online ticketing platform](#).

[READ STORY](#)



Spielbreaks Game Night Continues to Grow in Popularity

Ten people who are mostly strangers to each other are encouraged to sit at the table and listen to John Kaufeld start his magic. The card game is called 6 Nimmt, and though most have never heard of it, Kaufeld can turn the mildly curious into fans. Within 20 minutes, everyone playing at the most recent gathering on Oct. 6 had become friends, laughing and teasing each other, though bragging rights were the only stakes.

An instructor in the Department of Organizational Leadership at Purdue University Fort Wayne, Kaufeld is the coordinator, teacher, and ringmaster of Spielbreaks, which means “game freaks” in German. This board games night is held the first Friday of the month in the atrium at Walb Student Union. He uses 6 Nimmt as his icebreaker to help the newbies warm up at 7 p.m.

Two months ago, 76 players participated, including more than 60 students. In September, there were 63, including more than 50 students. It’s a free entertainment option on a Friday night, students and community members interacting easily as if they were all grade school friends. By 11 p.m., many are already making plans for a return trip.

[READ STORY](#)

Open Enrollment Ends at 6 p.m. on Nov. 7

Benefits-eligible faculty and staff should access their enrollment profile in BenefitFocus via **One Purdue**, look for the “Benefits Enrollment – Active” tile. Here you can review your beneficiaries, review your current insurance benefits, make changes to your 2024 benefits, and upload required paperwork such as dependent documentation, working spouse waiver, etc.

During the 2024 Open Enrollment, you must:

1. Complete the Tobacco Survey*
2. Complete the Working Spouse Certification*
3. Re-enroll / re-elect contributions to your HSA, HRA, and/or FSA for 2024; these contributions do not automatically continue into the next year, so you'll need to submit your 2024 contribution elections.

* *Completing these steps ensures that you pay the correct premium for 2024, as premiums are allocated based on tobacco-user status and spousal coverage. If no tobacco status is denoted, employees are defaulted to a tobacco-user rate. Additionally, if a spousal waiver form is required and not uploaded by the Dec. 1 deadline, employees will pay the higher working spouse rate.*

Good to Know

Faculty and Staff Portrait Session Scheduled for Tuesday

Faculty and staff who would like to have portraits taken may do so Tuesday 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.

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.

NOVEMBER

7

Tues., 7:30–8:30 p.m.

String Studio Recital

This recital is comprised of composers from many eras of music, featuring students from the violin, viola, cello, and string bass studios. The program also features the Chancellor's String Quartet...

NOVEMBER

8

Wed., noon–1:15 p.m.

Conversations on Science Presented by the College of Science

Learn about the excellent work being done in the College of Science. This session features colleagues from Biological Sciences, Chemistry and Biochemistry, and Mathematical Sciences discussing their recent projects...

NOVEMBER

8

Wed., 2-4 p.m.

SafeZone Training Part I

SafeZone is a comprehensive allyship and advocacy training program developed especially for faculty and staff at Purdue Fort Wayne and IU Fort Wayne. Workshops are organized into two parts...

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Pascal Zih, Banner database administrator | Information Technology Services

Transfers

- Danielle Dickow, academic advisor | Academic Accountability

News Spotlight

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

‘You Cannot Be What You Do Not See’

2023 Chancellor's Chili Fest draws students, area newsrooms

Fort Wayne-area media | Oct. 24

In a Snap

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



The Student Activities Board organized a campus-wide trick-or-treat event on Halloween. Students donned a variety of costumes and visited at least four of seven participating offices to earn extra treats from SAB.



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](#).

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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