



How You Support Student Retention

Looking at the recently completed spring semester enrollment report from the Office of Institutional Research and Analysis, Purdue University Fort Wayne has again seen year-over-year increases in credited hours—undergraduate up .7% and graduate up 2.2%—and first-time, full-time undergraduate student retention, which is up 1.5% compared to fall 2022 to spring 2023. According to Irah Modry-Caron, executive director of institutional research and information management, the growing number of international students enrolled at PFW continues to be highly encouraging and well developed.

As many already know, getting students enrolled for the first time is one thing; keeping them enrolled and on track to receive a degree is another. It's that second, and arguably more significant, objective where strategies set into motion a few years back are starting to make a real difference.

For Kent Johnson, executive director of academic assessment and student success, there's reason to believe more good news is on the horizon, and there are many ways faculty and staff can play a part. Read more of what Johnson had to say by clicking on the button below:

[READ Q&A](#)



Purdue Fort Wayne Esports Adds New Coach and Scholarship Opportunities

As the spring semester season starts to crank up, big things are happening with Purdue University Fort Wayne's **esports program**.

Under the direction of new coach Jordan Cunningham, 53 players represent the university in local and national competitions. Arriving in the fall, Cunningham has restructured the program to build off the base started in 2019 by Mitch Davidson, associate vice chancellor for ITS and executive director for distributed campus services, and Brian Spaulding, associate director of technology workspace.

Cunningham wrote a handbook for his esports players, running the section like an athletic department varsity team with structure, practice expectations, and decorum, along with support such as new gear to wear on road trips. The seven squads that make up the overall team took their first road trip in October to the "Battle for Indiana" at Butler University.

[READ MORE](#)



Refreshed Dining Services Website Includes Updates on Catering

This semester's major shift to food service management company Fresh Ideas has reached another exciting milestone, the introduction of an updated **Dining Services** website.

Of particular interest to those who are responsible for ordering food for on-campus events is updated information on **catering**. A few of the benefits of using Fresh Ideas for catering include new and improved services, an **expanded menu**, and competitive pricing.

Check out the catering page's FAQ section to learn more, and also visit the **Dining Services** website to find the latest on added features, meal plans, locations, and who to contact to get answers to specific questions.



Practicing Patience Key during FAFSA Form Facelift

For students waiting for greater clarity on the 2024–25 Free Application for Federal Student Aid form, days may seem like weeks at the moment. But if history is any indication, there's still a high probability that this is going to be a very helpful resource sooner rather than later.

Locally, leaders from Purdue University Fort Wayne say the number of Pell-eligible students in Indiana will more than double, rising from 14,175 to 30,249. Purdue Fort Wayne also anticipates a significant increase in its Pell-eligible students. Applying the new criteria, the university expects an increase of approximately 27%.

To lend some reassurance about the pace of the process, the Office of Financial Aid wants to remind applicants that despite the delays it expects to experience receiving necessary information from the U.S. Department of Education, the financial aid team continues to monitor all new developments and is there to assist in any way possible.

More information, updates, and a schedule of FAFSA support nights over the next two months is available online by [clicking here](#). Applicants can call the Office of Financial Aid at 260-481-6820 or email finaid@pfw.edu for additional assistance.

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.

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Today, noon–1 p.m.

Anthropology Club Lunchtime Lecture Series Presents Dr. Harold Kory Cooper: Innovation in the Far North

This presentation is an overview of several years of research into the innovation of native copper metallurgy by indigenous hunter-gatherer societies across far northwestern North America...

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Tues., 5:30–8:30 p.m.

CPR and AED Certification Class

The American Heart Association Basic Life Support and First Aid classes teach basic life-support techniques—including CPR using various methods to assist victims of all ages—and how to operate an AED, or automated external defibrillator...

News Spotlight

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

Story of ETCS student's hometown project spreads

Local and national media | Monday

Local artist captures life through art (21Country)

21Alive | Jan. 31

WANE 15 sits down with Curtis Crisler to discuss poet laureate honor

As wetlands shrink, their importance only grows

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Jan. 30

In a Snap

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



Because the Student Activities Board sometimes needs to clean out its stored inventory of unclaimed giveaway items, the campus community was invited to a free grab-and-go event at Walb Student Union on Monday. The stash included blankets, beach towels, T-shirts, cups, cowboy hats from Homecoming 2023, Chancellor's Chili Fest and other mugs, hoodies, and school flags.



Inside PFW Archive



Athletics



Ripples



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