



Purdue Fort Wayne Announces Exemplar and Top 50 Recipients for 2024

Purdue University Fort Wayne has chosen its next classes of **Exemplar and Top 50 recipients**. These students not only excel academically, they go above and beyond in their communities.

Each year, college and school deans, department chairs, and/or faculty select students to be Exemplars. Those receiving this honor must complete an undergraduate degree in December, May, or during the summer semester of the current academic year; have graduated with or be tentatively qualified to graduate with distinction; demonstrate excellent in their areas of study; and have a record of community outreach in their field.

Since 2016, Purdue University Fort Wayne has also recognized a larger group of Mastodons for their enthusiasm and success in making the most of the full student experience. Called simply the Top 50, these individuals not only have high GPAs, they also excel in university activities, events, and organizations—and through community engagement both here in Fort Wayne and in their hometowns.

A dinner and awards ceremony will be held Friday in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union beginning at 6:30 p.m.

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Wendel Leaving a Blueprint for Involvement

While growing up in St. Henry, Ohio, Isaac Wendel's parents and family instilled in him the constant desire to get involved, especially with opportunities to help others.

"Service was always such a big thing for me," Wendel said. "Our area is all about 'Help the neighbor.' If you need help, I will help you. I always have to keep my brain occupied, can never sit still, and always have to be doing something."

Since arriving at Purdue University Fort Wayne, Wendel has rarely been caught standing or sitting still. His time has been filled with the need to enthusiastically try a little bit of everything on campus. He'll graduate in May as a **Chapman Scholar** with a degree in mechanical engineering—and a million other experiences.

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Natalie and Crew Crank Up the Quality to Earn Opening Act Spot for Flo Rida Show

Had best-selling rapper, singer, and songwriter Flo Rida somehow sneaked into the International Ballroom on Monday evening, he'd have been flattered and proud of how well the three bands competing in Dons Got Music performed selections of his music. After all, Mauve, Punching Lucky, and Natalie and Crew were competing to play the opening act of Flo Rida's concert on April 26 at Gates Sports Center. All performed with passion, skill, and lots of energy.

Though formed just within the current academic year, Mauve and Punching Lucky impressed during their 50-minute sets, but the veteran band Natalie and Crew was selected by the judges to kick off the main event in nine short days. They showed the most stage presence and drew the biggest response from the crowd. It's also a good sign when the competing bands dance and sing along to your songs.

After the announcement, Natalie and Crew promised they'd play even better for the concert, adding new songs and even more energy. The group is comprised of lead singer Natalie Dominiak, who's a junior, senior Eleysha Lee on bass guitar, senior Jesse Frausto on guitar, and senior Amara Wiley on percussion and vocals. Junior Michael Boyd plays drums, sophomore Noah Vaughn works the keyboards, and freshman Hailee Richmond handles guitar and vocals.

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Good to Know

Democratic Party Mayoral Town Hall Today at PFW

Citing strong interest, the Allen County Democratic Party has moved its mayoral town hall to Purdue Fort Wayne to accommodate a larger audience. All candidates who filed by the Wednesday deadline and meet the requirements to run will have the opportunity to participate. The town hall will take place today between 6 and 8 p.m. in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union. The public is invited to attend.

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.

APRIL

19, 20, 21

Fri. & Sat. 8 p.m.

Sun. 2 p.m.

Black Snow

Sergei Maxudov, a dispirited Russian newspaper man, has written a novel that may never pass the censors. In despair, contemplating suicide, he is interrupted by a publisher who wants to buy the novel and then accepts an offer to adapt it for the stage. The play takes a dark turn when he meets...

APRIL

20

Sat., 9 a.m.–noon

Campus United 5K Run/Walk

All faculty, staff, alumni, and community members from both campuses are welcome to participate in the Campus United 5K Run/Walk. All donations and proceeds will benefit The FRIENDS of the University Pantry at Purdue Fort Wayne...

APRIL

21

Sun., 2:30–4:30 p.m.

A Festival of Song Choral Concert

The Chamber Treble Singers, Choral Union, and University Singers will celebrate the end of the academic year with a program of uplifting and inspiring repertoire to spread hope, joy, and peace...

News Spotlight

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

Quality child care comes at a cost we can't neglect

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | April 11

Cleveland rocks during search for PFW weather balloon

Cleveland-area media | April 10–11

Purdue Fort Wayne hosts annual Day of Giving

FOX 55 | April 10

In a Snap

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



*"Groovy Tie-Dye" is just one of the activities sponsored by the Student Activities Board during this year's Spring Fling week. Student Government Association **elections** are also taking place.*

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



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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