



Carl Drummond, provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, presents a plaque to Zesheng Chen, associate professor of computer science, during Friday's ceremony.

Chen Honored with PFW Outstanding Research Award

Along with the positives artificial intelligence potentially brings to society, there are also increased risks coming from those who want to use the advances for malicious purposes. Those intentions require others to counter and serve as defenders.

Zesheng Chen, an associate professor of computer science who specializes in machine learning security, is one of those key defenders. To recognize his expertise, Chen was honored with the Purdue University Fort Wayne Outstanding Research Award for 2024–25 during a ceremony on Friday.

The Outstanding Research Award honors a tenured, full-time faculty member for outstanding performance in the area of research, scholarly activity, or creative endeavor. The honoree must have achieved an exceptional record of contributions to the body of knowledge or creative works in his or her discipline—and must also have had great success communicating that information to a wide audience. Chen was chosen for the honor by the ORA committee, which consisted of past recipients and his peers. The award is sponsored by the Office of Academic Affairs.

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Tickets for Luke Russert Omnibus Presentation Available Today at 1:30 p.m.

Purdue University Fort Wayne's popular Omnibus Speaker Series continues Nov. 19 when writer and television journalist Luke Russert takes the stage at Auer Performance Hall lectern at 7:30 p.m.

The son of longtime "Meet the Press" host Tim Russert, Luke Russert published "Look for Me There: Grieving My Father, Finding Myself," a 2023 book capturing the essence of his search for meaning after his father died in 2008. He'll share his insights during "Grief Journey," which is a tale of travel and adventure, but also a profound exploration of grief, faith, and self-discovery, along with a vision of the future.

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Serving Those Who Serve Brunch Scheduled for Monday

The fourth annual “Serving Those Who Serve” brunch at Purdue University Fort Wayne will be Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. Sponsored by Military Student Services, the event honors members of the campus community who are veterans and those in service-orientated degree programs and professions such as first response, social work, law enforcement, healthcare, and education.

Everyone on campus is welcome to take part.

“We want to not only bring in our veterans, but we want the whole community to understand that we want to honor those who serve in any fashion,” said Nicole Welsh, senior compliance officer.

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Summit Scholars Experience Chicago

First- and second-year Chapman and Doermer scholars took in Chicago's stunning skyline while posing for a group photo during an action-packed fall break trip. The itinerary included hands-on exhibits at the Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, an architectural riverboat tour, breathtaking views on the skydeck at Willis Tower, and marveling at masterpieces in the Art Institute of Chicago. Participants said the trip offered countless moments of inspiration and learning.

One Week Left in Open Enrollment

Benefits eligible faculty and staff can access their enrollment profile in BenefitFocus for Open Enrollment until 6 p.m. on Nov. 12 at one.purdue.edu; look for the "Benefits Enrollment—Active" tile.

During 2025 Open Enrollment Employees MUST:

- Complete the tobacco survey*
- Complete the working spouse certification*
- Re-enroll/re-elect contributions to HSA, HRA, and/or FSA for 2025; these contributions do not automatically continue into the next year.

**Completing these steps ensures that enrollees pay the correct premium for 2025, as premiums are allocated depending 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.*

Both Amy Jagger, benefits director, and Tiffany Davis, HR generalist, are offering one-on-one sessions in-person and virtually to answer questions and provide help.

Set up a meeting with Jagger using **Calendly**. To meet with Davis, email **davis444@pfw.edu**.

General questions? Contact Jagger at **jaggera@pfw.edu** or Davis.

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.

NOVEMBER

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Wed., 6–8 p.m.

PFW Documentary: Leonardo da Vinci, a Film by Ken Burns

Leonardo da Vinci is Ken Burns first non-American documentary. The film explores the life and work of 15th century polymath. The Multicultural Center is partnering with PBS to host clips of the documentary...

NOVEMBER

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Wed., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

Vocal Division Showcase Recital

The talents of our vocal student from the School of Music will be showcased in a diverse program of folk music from different countries. The concert will offer a rich tapestry of vocal music, demonstrating the vocalists' breadth of skills and interpretative abilities. Free admission...

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- DeShawn Woods, college success coach | Division of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience

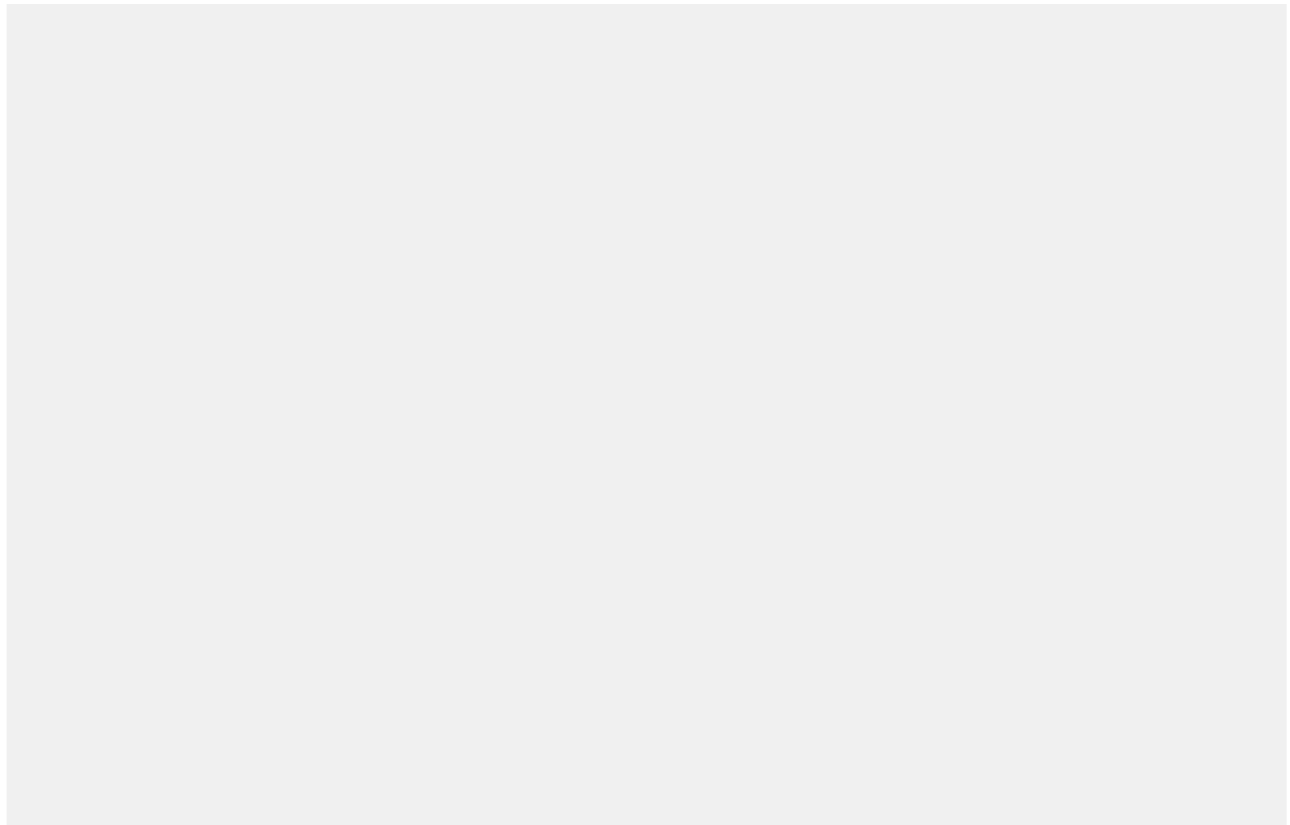
From the Field

Several colleges, departments, and programs at PFW publish e-newsletters. Follow these links to read the latest:

Expressions | College of Visual and Performing Arts

In a Snap

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





The Society of Women Engineers, in collaboration with the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science, held their 20th annual Opportunity Banquet on Friday evening. Following a career fair with area employers, attendees enjoyed a dinner and keynote speaker Doa Ross, deputy general manager of engineering for the Las Vegas Valley Water District and the Southern Nevada Water Authority. Pictured above is Kelsi Burkholder, recruiting coordinator for Jayco in Middlebury.

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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