



North Side Robotics Team Boosted by PFW Presence

As soon as he walked into the room, Drew Clem, a Purdue University Fort Wayne senior majoring in electrical engineering, got hit with about five questions from the North Side High School students who were waiting for his arrival. As coach of the Legends' robotics team, instead of getting anxious or overwhelmed, Clem just smiled, clapped his hands, and started answering. He was totally comfortable and in his element.

"One thing I like about Drew is the way he explains things is very easy to comprehend and grasp," North Side senior Thang Khual said. "Even if it's something you are not very familiar with, he'll explain it in a way you can understand it right away. It's a lot more fun when you understand what you are doing."

As North Side teacher Dennis Fisher [said](#), Clem started helping the team two years ago when help

was desperately needed. Up until that point, Fisher was guiding the group all by himself. Students who were there before and after Clem's arrival have also noticed the positive impact he's had on the team.

[READ MORE](#)



Free Food Vouchers for First 100 PFW Employees at Thursday's Men's Basketball Game

Faculty and staff attending Purdue Fort Wayne's men's basketball game versus Cleveland State on Thursday will earn a chance to eat for free if they are among the first to arrive. That's because the first 100 employees in the house will receive \$10 food vouchers. Student incentives will also be announced in Wednesday's *Don Life* student newsletter.

Tipoff at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum has been moved to 9 p.m. to accommodate a national broadcast on ESPNU. As always, PFW faculty and staff can also get into all home basketball games for free!



Order Academic Regalia for Commencement by April 18

Purdue Fort Wayne's 2025 Commencement will be held May 14 at 4 p.m. in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and participate in this joyous occasion that is the culmination of our students' academic experience—and one of life's special moments. If you are a faculty member and wish to participate in the ceremony, you can find the registration link [here](#).

Faculty are asked to wear academic regalia (tams optional) for the ceremony. If you need to rent regalia, please use this [online form](#); the university will cover the cost of rentals. As has been the case in recent years, everything will be shipped directly to faculty members and will include a return shipping label. You are required to return the rented regalia back to Herff Jones. The deadline for orders is April 18.

Student Emergency Absence Policies to Be Covered at Upcoming Information Sessions

Employees who are new to Purdue University Fort Wayne, unaware of the student emergency absence policies, or just interested in learning more are invited to join the Office of Student Conduct and Care for a one-hour information session that will provide an overview of the various student emergency absence policies, what can be excused and what cannot, documentation required, and more.

Feb. 19 | 11 a.m.–noon | online via Teams

March 4 | 10–11 a.m. | Walb Student Union, Room 114

Register for a session by emailing scc@pfw.edu.

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Cathrine Knight, administrative assistant | Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry
- James Morimanno, maintenance technician | Student Housing

Transfers

- Lindsey Corrine Green, director of MBA Program | Doermer School of business

In a Snap

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



Civil engineering students in CE381 tackled the frozen earth on Monday near the St. Joseph River in a hands-on soil exploration lab. Pickaxes were first used to establish a location, then other equipment was brought in to obtain a soil sample. The collected material will be used to carry out experiments to explore concepts in construction.

News Center



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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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