



For Students

March 12, 2025



## Tickets for Pati Jinich Omnibus Presentation Now Available

"An Evening with Pati Jinich" on March 20 will complete the 2024–25 season of the Omnibus Speaker Series at Purdue University Fort Wayne. Jinich is the host of PBS programs such as "Pati's Mexican Table" and the award-winning docuseries "La Frontera." Her public performance at Auer Performance Hall will start at 7:30 p.m. Free tickets were released on Thursday.

Jinich, a native of Mexico City, has spent years focused on Mexican political institutions and relations at the border. She is a chef, author of three cookbooks with a fourth publishing soon, and has made it her life's work to build understanding between her two countries.

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## Edens Brings the Healing Power of Music to Patients at Ronald McDonald House

Serving a practicum in an off-campus setting can be thrilling, but how about being good enough to receive an invitation to address the entity's board of directors?

For Purdue University Fort Wayne senior Olivia Edens, she got that chance to talk about something she loves: music therapy.

"We were very impressed with Olivia's confidence, maturity, and passion," said Jen Veatch, chief executive officer at Ronald McDonald House of Northeast Indiana. "I have no doubt that Olivia will do incredible things in her career. She is a game changer and someone who paves the way for new and exciting things."

Edens addressed the board about her passion and why the Ronald McDonald House needed to consider introducing more opportunities for music therapists at its Parkview Regional Medical Center location. She'd established her credentials by working two hours weekly to show how the therapy positively affected patients.

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## Field Trips Help Construction Management Students Stake Their Claim to Future Jobs

Especially for students in elementary school, the excitement of a field trip is almost universal. Those who grew up locally may remember visiting places like the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo, Seyfert's, The History Center, or Science Central. The chances to learn something new and fun felt limitless; the structure and strictures of the classroom were released!

Jeremy Milliman, a limited-term lecturer in civil engineering at Purdue University Fort Wayne, still encourages his students to explore possibilities by taking them outside to get their hands dirty, to dig into the places where they might end up working someday.

During the fall semester, Milliman's construction management class visited the Indiana Department of Transportation district office, a major road project on Bass Road, and Science Central to see the planetarium that's being built. His civil engineering materials lab also took a trip to Patriot Engineering for concrete cylinder testing and then to Brooks Construction's asphalt plant.

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## Fort Wayne Mayor to Speak at PFW Women's Conference

Mayor Sharon Tucker, a trailblazer in Fort Wayne city government, will be the opening speaker for the Women's Conference at Purdue University Fort Wayne on March 25. With the theme "Moving Forward Together—Women Educating and Inspiring Generations," the event will be from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

After three terms as a member of the City Council, Tucker was selected as Fort Wayne's 37th mayor on April 23, 2024.

"I was honored to be asked to speak at the upcoming PFW Women's Conference," Tucker said. "I believe it's imperative that we celebrate the value of women in our society, both locally and around the world. I'm humbled to be serving as mayor, and this conference provides me with an opportunity to encourage and support women and give them reasons for hope and optimism moving forward."

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## Disability Awareness Month Award Winners

The Disability Access Center has announced the recipients of its 2025 Disability Awareness Month

Awards. Individuals and groups whose dedication to advancing inclusivity, accessibility, and the well-being of students with disabilities are recognized for making a significant impact on the campus community. Each winner exemplifies outstanding leadership, advocacy, and commitment to creating an equitable environment for all.

The recipients are:

- **Carly Bennett:** Faculty Excellence in Accessibility Award
- **Ryan Herrick:** Student Advocate Award
- **Navyaprabha Rajappa:** Inclusive Excellence Award

## LeBlanc Honored by Central States Communication Association

Sarah LeBlanc, a Purdue University Fort Wayne associate professor of interpersonal communications and recent recipient of a Featured Faculty designation at PFW, has been named winner of the Warren Mentorship Award by the Central States Communication Association. The award recognizes a mid-career scholar who exhibits the virtues of a mentor, scholar, and member of the discipline who excels in teaching, research/creativity, service, and engagement.

LeBlanc joined the PFW faculty in 2014.



## Graduating in May? Keep These Deadlines in Mind

Purdue Fort Wayne's 2025 Commencement will take place May 14 at 4 p.m. in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum.

Here are some deadlines and details to keep in mind if you are planning to participate:

- If you would like to see your name in the commencement program, remember to apply to graduate by March 31. Complete the application in **goPFW** under Registration Tools in the Enrollment section.
- After you apply to graduate, **register yourself and your family** for the event. Tickets aren't needed, but sharing an estimated number of your family and friends who will be attending the ceremony and the after-party is very helpful for PFW's advance planning.
- **Order your cap and gown.** All orders will be shipped directly to the address that you enter, along with a return shipping label. Graduates who aren't planning to attend commencement in May can order a cap and gown for pictures.
- Visit the **commencement website** often for important information, reminders, and updates.

## Eventful

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*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.*

MARCH

18

Tues., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

### Percussion Studio Recital

Hear PFW percussion students from the studio of Matthew Keown perform the masterworks of the solo percussion genre. The vast and varied world of solo percussion is on full display in this concert featuring selections for Marimba, snare drum, and multiple percussion...

MARCH

19

Wed., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

### Vocal Division Showcase

Students from the vocal area present a program filled with a wide range of solo works focused on the theme of fairytales and myths...

# Mastodon Moments

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



*Image courtesy of Marc Lebryk and the Horizon League*

The outcome of Tuesday's Horizon League tournament championship game may sting for a few more days, but it doesn't diminish the excitement the PFW women's basketball team generated during their time in the limelight all season long. Congratulations to Coach Marchesano and all the Dons who gave Fort Wayne and the nation a preview of what to expect from this program in the years to come.

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