



## 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.

## Good to Know

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### Vendor Portal Implementation to Enhance Fraud Protection and Process Efficiencies

The finance and business operations team will begin implementation of PaymentWorks, a cloud-based vendor onboarding application, in March. PW allows vendors to enter and maintain their own data, reducing duplication of effort with features that provide greater security and fraud protection through direct entry of information into a secure portal. Improved visibility into vendor

data is another benefit, as university staff will also have access to the portal for monitoring and maintenance activities. [Learn more](#)

## 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

17

Mon., 5:30–9:30 p.m.

### American Heart Association CPR/AED/First Aid Certification Class

Basic Life Support is designed to teach the skills of CPR for victims of all ages, including ventilation with a barrier device, a bag-mask device, use of an automated external defibrillator, and relief of foreign body airway obstruction. The AHA Heartsaver First Aid course trains participants in first aid basics for the most common first aid emergencies...

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. Free admission...

## On the Job

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*Check out the new faces in new places.*

### New Hires

- Ian Gasper, HVAC technician | Student Housing
- David Phan, associate registrar for registration, scheduling, and systems | Registrar

# In a Snap

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



*Students and alumni connected with potential employers at Wednesday's Mastodon Career Expo in the Lutheran Health Fieldhouse. More than 90 companies were represented.*

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**.

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