



Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer and two students on the way to class at Kettler Hall on Tuesday checked out one of the new screens while discussing a bit of the information that was displayed.

## New Digital Display Network Brings Campus News and Events to Life

The campus community now has a dynamic new way to stay informed and connected with the launch this week of an advanced Digital Display Network. This cutting-edge communication tool will feature campus news; upcoming events; important announcements; and other content of interest to students, faculty, staff, and visitors.

The new network, which was conceived prior to the pandemic as part of the university's Quality of Place strategic planning initiative, is designed to significantly enhance campus communications and create a more connected campus environment. The screens are being strategically placed in

high-traffic areas to maximize visibility and engagement. Approximately 50 screens are being installed and brought online this week, and another 50 screens will be installed in the coming months.

“We are thrilled to introduce this new platform that will help keep our campus community connected and informed,” said Jerry Lewis, vice chancellor for communications and marketing. “The Digital Display Network is an exciting enhancement to our communications strategies and aligns with our commitment to adopt and leverage innovative technology to engage our community.”

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## Food for Thought: Jinich Thrives on Cultural and Culinary Connections

During her short visit to Fort Wayne, chef, author, and television host Pati Jinich ate garbage for breakfast at Cindy’s Diner, a hot dog for lunch at Coney Island, and a slider at Powers Hamburgers as a late-night snack. Fortunately, she also got to spend quite a bit of time Thursday on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne as its final guest for this season’s Omnibus Speaker Series. Jinich’s descriptions of Mexican food had many salivating and ready to find their own savory dishes on the way home.



Because of the Mexico City native's passionate and alluring skills as a communicator, Jinich created intoxicating word recipes that practically required audience members to wear bibs.

Even PFW Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer drew laughs by announcing to the crowd that he was hungry after Jinich's presentation.

Encouraged by relationships created through a love of food, Jinich has used her platforms to study the relationships between the United States and Mexico, particularly the people living on both sides of the border. She loves describing how important conversations become less stressful over meals.

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## Kessler Plays Games to Help Make Econ Lessons More Relatable, Bearable

Considering teaching the discipline became his specialty, it's fascinating that John Kessler never took an economics class in high school or as an undergrad in college. In fact, he only taught his first economics class because the high school principal determining his employment gave him no choice.

But then Kessler got hooked, studied further in grad school, and is now a senior lecturer and

director of the Center for Economic Education at Purdue University Fort Wayne. He uses unconventional methods to encourage students to participate and interact. As a result, they regularly end up teaching themselves, which goes a long way in helping with comprehension.

“People come to econ because they are often scared,” Kessler said. “I either have students who take it right away when they are starting because they had a really good high school experience, or they wait until senior year because they had a really bad high school experience, and they are dreading taking this class.

“I try to tell them it’s not about math and numbers, and all this stuff you think it is. Math is a tool we use to do economics, but it’s not economics.”

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## Good to Know

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### Green Honored by Arts United

Seth Green, associate professor of ceramics at Purdue Fort Wayne, has received the Margaret Ann Keegan Award for Arts Education from Arts United. He is an advisor to PFW’s Ceramics Club, and supports various other activities across campus including the annual Empty Bowls event, which raises funds for the club and the FRIENDS of the University Pantry. Green also co-founded the Indiana Clay Conference to engage and connect the clay community in the state.

### Susan Domer Retirement Party

The entire campus community is invited to a retirement party for Susan Domer on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. Domer has served as a senior marketing and public relations administrator for the College of Visual and Performing Arts for 24 years, helping promote more than 140 events annually during that time. The gathering will take place in the Music Center, Room 120.

### 3 PFW Financial Aid Team Members Receive ISFAA Awards

The Indiana Student Financial Aid Association recognized three members of Purdue Fort Wayne’s Office of Financial Aid at its annual conference earlier this month. The award recipients were Ron Herrell, 2024–25 ISFAA president, for outstanding contributions during the year; Karen Louis, who received the President’s Award; and Stephanie Patrick, who was recognized with the New Professional Award.

# 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

27

Thurs., 10 a.m.–1 p.m.

## Wellbeing Summit 2025

The Wellbeing Summit will feature over 50 vendors offering engaging activities, mental health and self-care resources, and educational opportunities. Events are free. The university will also officially sign the Okanagan Charger, marking its designation as a Health Promoting Campus...

MARCH

28

Fri., 5–7 p.m.

## Women's History Month Paint and Sip

This is a great opportunity to unwind, express yourself, and connect with others in a casual and inspiring atmosphere. Light refreshments will be provided, and all skill levels are welcome. Come ready to paint, sip, and enjoy the moment...

## On the Job

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*Check out the new faces in new places.*

### New Hires

- Gage Akers, maintenance technician | Student Housing
- Kelsey Klinker, custodian | Building Services
- Emily Novello, administrative assistant, senior | Doermer School of Business
- Benjamin Ramsey, groundskeeper | Grounds

### Transfers

- Tiera Downing, assistant bursar | Office of the Bursar
- Don Lewis, police sergeant | University Police Department
- Ayn Reineke, marketing and public relations administrator, senior | 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.*



Construction activity on PFW's new Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building is trending upward.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



Athletics



Ripples



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Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the PFW **News Center**.

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