



For Students

April 2, 2025



Division of Campus and Community Wellbeing team members Kerrie Fineran, Alice Jordan, Gianna Casaburo, and Eric Manor look on as Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer adds his signature to the Okanagan Charter during a ceremony on Thursday.

## Purdue Fort Wayne Joins US Health Promoting Campuses Network with Adoption of Okanagan Charter

Through its adoption of the Okanagan Charter at a ceremony Thursday afternoon, Purdue University Fort Wayne has become one of just 38 universities and colleges in the United States—and the first in Indiana—to join the top tier of the **U.S. Health Promoting Campuses Network**. This transformative commitment reinforces Purdue Fort Wayne's dedication to fostering well-being, sustainability, and equity for students, faculty, staff, and the broader community.



The Okanagan Charter, developed in 2015 by higher education and health promotion leaders from around the world, provides a framework for embedding health into all aspects of campus culture, administration, operations, and academic priorities. By adopting the charter, Purdue Fort Wayne joins a global movement of institutions prioritizing holistic well-being and integrating health into their institutional mission.

"With this important step, we reaffirm our commitment to a culture that values the well-being of every individual in our campus community," said Ron Elsenbaumer, chancellor, Purdue University Fort Wayne. "This initiative continues to build upon the strategic work already underway to make PFW a premier institution committed to student and employee well-being, retention, and success at all levels."

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Emma Coville raised \$900 to establish a compost project at Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus, with students in 37 rooms signing up to participate. Part of the pilot project included a small collection structure she built this semester to turn the results into soil anyone can use.

## Coville Studies, Attacks Life to Find What's Possible

During a recent Chapman Scholars trip to Arizona, the six Purdue University Fort Wayne students

came across a beautiful mountain stream. Senior Emma Coville was thirsty, so she kneeled down and scooped some water to drink. She then challenged the others to do the same before running back to the car to grab a bottle to fill.

Someone mentioned the bird flu potential, but Coville wasn't scared, saying that running water is safer to drink than stagnant water. The story exemplifies how Coville attacks life. She studies almost everything she comes across and then figures out ways to see if something that interests her can be used to help others.

She started flying at age 13, recently earning a private pilot license, and organizes the local Experimental Aircraft Association's annual chili fundraiser for scholarships—including cooking 24 pounds of beef and helping chop 60 onions. She also keeps bees, once loading 5,000 into her Honda Civic to transport back from a farm.

Give her a list of ideas to see if she's tried them, and Coville will likely say "No" but with a reminder that she's not done yet.

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Transition to Teaching Helps Candidates Adjust to New



## Indiana Requirements

Each year, elementary and high school teachers are tasked with more responsibilities regarding their students' well-being and its potential impact on their learning. This includes recognizing warning signs and reporting concerns. Being aware of potential abuse has always been a priority, but what if there are suspicions a student might be homeless or involved with criminal activity? Teachers are now required by law to report such possibilities.

So how do current and future educators keep up with all the new obligations they are presented by state legislatures and other governing bodies, particularly the 61 involved with Purdue University Fort Wayne's **Transition to Teaching** program? These are professionals transitioning from other fields, often completing their training while actively serving in schools because there is such a drastic need for teachers. Candidates can finish the program in three to four semesters, depending on their specific areas.

Each semester, 10-15 TTT participants gather monthly in Neff Hall for 2½-hour training sessions to debate questions, study ideas, and ask for guidance from PFW faculty such as Shane Conwell, professor of educational leadership; Erin Baldauf, professor of education; and Rama Cousik, associate professor of special education. The current cohort is made up of 12 who meet for an hour before breaking into their specialties.

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## Soup's on! Empty Bowls Event Continues to Serve Record Numbers

For the first time, Purdue University Fort Wayne's Empty Bowls event will include evening hours and an off-campus weekend opportunity.

The eighth annual sale will be held in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday. For \$30, participants receive a handcrafted artistic bowl, a choice of soups from Miller's Market, bread, a cookie, and a bottle of water; carryout options are also available. Credit cards and checks are accepted.

This year, there will also be another Empty Bowls event at Artlink, 300 E. Main St., on April 26 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Ellie Dart, Alex Bayburt-Gurevich, and Manal Ali are members of the JPUR editorial board.

## Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research Expands Roster of Mastodons

The first rule of being a writer is no one can effectively edit their own work.

This can be especially true for young academics' early attempts at writing research papers, but a group of Purdue University Fort Wayne students has stepped up to help by joining the **Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research** editorial board. JPUR is a student-run, peer-reviewed publication from the Purdue West Lafayette campus.

Seniors Elizabeth Strong, Ellie Dart, and Manal Ali; juniors Lara Alfahdli, Ye Yint Phone Myint, Katelynn McPhee, and Kendra Murray; and sophomore Alex Bayburt-Gurevich have dedicated hours—some over two years—to help prospective JPUR authors with constructive feedback.

"I have always wanted to be part of a student-run publication, and writing has always been a form of expression I have loved," said Phone Myint, a double major in economics and data science. "The opportunity to help others express their ideas through writing is a natural fit. I love being able to support fellow students in the same way I have been supported throughout my academic journey."

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## Good to Know

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### WellRec Is Now Campus Recreation

Wellbeing and Recreation has been renamed Campus Recreation following the establishment of the new **Division of Campus and Community Wellbeing**. Campus Recreation is responsible for managing the fitness center, intramural sports, outdoor recreation, and a variety of other recreational programs on campus. The team, though small, is committed to fostering a healthy and active environment within the campus community. For inquiries, contact Nick Brand, director of campus recreation, at [brannj01@pfw.edu](mailto:brannj01@pfw.edu).

## 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.*

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Fri., 7–11 p.m.

## Board Game Night

play all kinds of modern tabletop board games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, 7 Wonders, Splendor, and more. You'll find an eager crowd ready to play your favorites and teach whatever you want to learn...

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APRIL

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Mon., 7:30–9:30 p.m.

## Army Field Band and Soldiers' Chorus

The U.S. Army Field Band and Soldier's Chorus have been thrilling audiences of all ages for more than six decades. As the premier touring musical representatives for the U.S. Army, these internationally-acclaimed organizations travel thousands of miles each year presenting a variety of...

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APRIL

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Tues., 11 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

## Talent Tuesday: Meet Your Next Employer

Speak with employers who are offering internship positions and part-time and full-time positions that you wouldn't get the chance to know about otherwise...

## News Spotlight

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*A sampling of external news coverage of Purdue University Fort Wayne.*

Sneaky weasels caught on camera with surprising bait choice

MSN.com | Saturday

PFW joins health network, introduces new division focused on well-being during Thursday summit

21alivenews.com | Thursday



# Mastodon Moments

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



Students catch-up with friends, study, and have a snack next to the sunny east windows of the lounge area located on the second floor of the Music Center.

Athletics



Events Calendar



News Center



Don Life Archive



Don Life is an official university communication sent weekly on Wednesday to all currently enrolled students. Don Life 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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