



December 2025 Update

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Annual Events

PURDUE SPRING SEMESTER CLASSES begin on January 12, 2026.

The **2026 PURA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE** is scheduled for April 22, 2026 at the Beck Agricultural Center located at 4550 US 52 West in West Lafayette.

The **2026 PURA ANNUAL KICKOFF LUNCHEON** is scheduled for September 14, 2026 at the Courtyard Marriott at 150 Fairington Avenue in Lafayette.

Upcoming PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting Schedule

Location: IN-PERSON at Lafayette VFW, Duncan Road, Lafayette, Indiana. Also, via ZOOM broadcast from our studio at the VFW.

Time: 10:00 am ET to approximately 11:30 am ET.

Monday, January 5, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Mark Kebert, Director of Risk Management - Purdue
- Mark Kebert is Executive Director and Chief Risk Officer for Purdue University and its 40 affiliated support entities which include Purdue Research Foundation, Purdue Alumni Foundation, Purdue for Life Foundation, Mc Clure Park, and Purdue PARI. He is a career risk professional who rose through the risk financing industry in several large insurance companies including Farmers Insurance Group, The American Family Group and others leading him into higher-education risk leadership. Kebert has been a visible leader for Purdue's risk strategy for the past 24 years — advising the Board of Trustees as well as executive leadership. He is regularly quoted in industry outlets about emerging risks (including cyber and drone technologies) and has helped Purdue's Office of Risk Management to earn national recognition for innovative programs.
- Topic: Managing Institutional Risk and the Basic Application of the Risk Assessment Mindset
- Purdue's Office of Risk Management identifies and evaluates risks to which the Purdue community is exposed and develops efficient ways to manage and finance those risks. From research laboratories, to sporting events, campus activities, student organization activities and even students studying abroad, the Office of Risk Management is involved. This program will offer an inside look at how risks are identified and managed in a large academic and research setting. A

Q&A session that will address application of risk awareness and assessment in daily life applications.

Monday, February 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Astrophysicist Dr. Danny Milisavljevic - Purdue
- Topic: WEBB Telescope Update

Monday, March 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Mike Warren, Senior Director Recreation & Wellness - Purdue
- Topic: Co-Rec - Operations & History

Important Note Regarding Weather – If there is bad weather on the day of the PURA Monthly Meeting, please check local media. If Tippecanoe School Corp (TSC) is closed that day, the PURA Monthly Meeting will be cancelled.

What to do if you are having problems receiving PURA emails

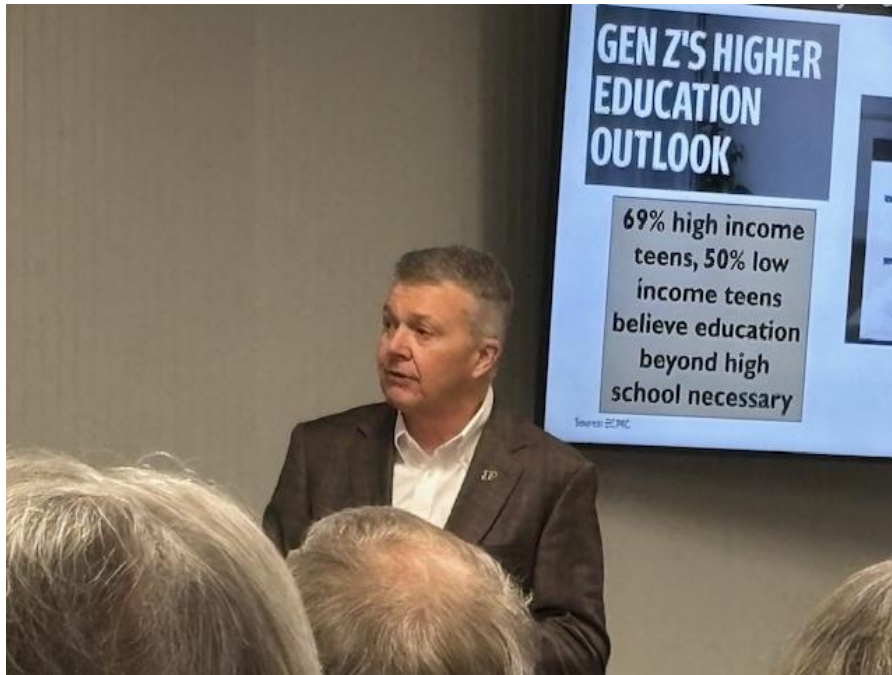
If you are not receiving PURA emails, send an email to gifts@purdue.edu explaining that you are a Purdue retiree and are not receiving emails from PURA (Purdue University Retirees Association) sent out through Purdue for Life. Purdue for Life maintains the Purdue retiree information including email addresses in its Salesforce CRM software. Please pass this information along to any retiree friends who are not receiving our emails.

The December Monthly Meeting Program

Rebuilding Trust in Higher Education: The Opportunity for Land-Grant Universities

Our PURA program in December featured former dean, provost, and now Trustee Chair in Teaching and Learning Excellence Jay Akridge. 51 in-person attendees and 39 via Zoom were treated to this very interesting topic and Jay's insight. Using charts, graphs and statistics, Jay traced the sources of how trust in college has eroded. The misperception of debt is one and the value or rate of return on a degree is another, among many, but statistics indicate otherwise. "These various "disconnects" are frustrating but can't be ignored," he told us. His Blueprint for action include: Establish Relevance (Link Research, Extension, Teaching), Bring Stakeholders In (Creative, Intentional Listening), Reframe Success (Traditional Metrics Won't Hold), Be Authentic Storytellers (Communicate on Stakeholders Terms), Elevate the Teaching Mission, Rethink Access and Completion (Simple Message of College Benefits), Develop a Career Ready Focus (Deep Look at What's Needed in Work World) and Residential Must Be Experiential (Why Come to a Physical Campus). His weekly feature "Finding Equilibrium" on Substack along with Dean of Business David Hummels expands on these themes and much more. The complete presentation can be found on the PURA website: purdue.edu/retirees/.

Summary provided by John Sautter, Chair of the PURA Program Committee.



News from the PURA Campus & Community Committee

As PURA renewed its tours this fall, we had very successful visits to the remodeled and restored University Hall on campus and the Haan Mansion at Christmas in Lafayette. More than seventy people attended the two tours and there were waiting lists for both opportunities.

More is being planning for 2026. We are hoping to announce a PURA group lunch at the Lawrence possibly in March after it opens. Those attending will be responsible for their own meal.

The farm-to-table restaurant will be inside a 100-year-old barn donated by Purdue alumnus and Trustee Lawrence “Sonny” Beck. It’s now located in the Discovery Park District, between Airport Road and McCutcheon Drive, just off Mitch Daniels Boulevard. We are also planning a presentation about the barn and restaurant.

Sonny Beck is CEO of Beck’s Superior Hybrids. More than a dozen members of the Beck family have attended Purdue since 1929. Construction has maintained the character of the historic barn with a modern structure and amenities.

We are hopeful for a Long Center tour and event coordinating with the Lafayette Symphony April and May concerts.

Other opportunities are being considered for spring and summer, including plans for a special campus tour bringing people up to date as Purdue continues to grow in size and stature.

News from the PURA Annual Spring Conference Committee

The Annual Spring Conference Committee has been working hard to plan their 2026 conference scheduled for April 22, 2026 at the Beck Agricultural Center. Chair Norm Long has shared just a few of the planned highlights:

- Adriana Harmeyer presenting “My Journey with Jeopardy”
- Dave Sattler – Humorist Cartoons related to ole Purdue
- Information about Purdue’s Grandparent University
- Pictures with Purdue Pete

You won’t want to miss this popular annual PURA conference. Registration information will be shared in the coming months.

New Year Brings Changes to Social Security, Medicare, and PURA Insurance Plans

The arrival of 2026 brings changes that will impact each of us. We should each be aware of the following:

For Social Security and Medicare Recipients

- Your monthly Social Security benefit will increase 2.8% in 2026 because of a rise in the cost of living.
- The standard Medicare premium increases to \$202.90. You may be required to pay an additional Medicare premium based on your 2024 income tax return.

For PURcare Participants

- The PURcare (Senior Supp plus Part D prescription plan) premium increases to \$366.87/member.
- PURcare coverage changes are:
 - A. The PURcare medical/hospital deductible increases from \$300 to \$500.
 - B. The PURcare prescription drug deductible increases from \$0 to \$300.
 - C. The PURcare prescription drug co-pays for 2026 will be:

Tier 1	50% up to \$15 max.
Tier 2	50% up to \$47 max.
Tier 3	50% up to \$100 max.
Tier 4	50% up to \$100 max.
- Members will receive new ID cards from UnitedHealthcare (UHC)-Senior Supplement and Medicare Rx Groups.

For PURA Group Medicare Advantage Participants

- The Group Medicare Advantage PPO for 2026 will have a decreased premium. The premium will be \$190.45.
- Medicare Advantage PPO coverage changes are:
 - A. The medical/hospital Maximum Out-of-Pocket increases from \$3,400 to \$5,000.
 - B. The medical/hospital deductible increases from \$0 to \$500.
 - C. Skilled Nursing Facility days 1-20: Decreased per day copay from \$20 to \$10.

- D. Inpatient Mental Health/Substance Abuse in a Psychiatric Hospital: Decreased copay from \$200 to \$150.
- E. Medicare-covered Chiropractic Visit: Decreased coinsurance from 50% to 40%.
- F. The prescription drug deductible increases from \$0 to \$300.
- G. Prescription drug co-pays for 2026 at a retail pharmacy will be:

Tier 1	\$4
Tier 2	\$28
Tier 3	\$58
Tier 4	29%

- Members will receive a new ID card from UnitedHealthcare (UHC)-UHC Group Medicare Advantage PPO.

Thinking about year-end giving – Consider the PURA Scholarship Endowments

Over the last two decades PURA members have raised over \$300,000 to support the two PURA academic scholarship endowments: the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and the PURA Purdue Opportunity Award in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke. Interest income from these endowments has assisted over 75 Indiana students realize the dream of pursuing a bachelor's degree and becoming a Purdue Boilermaker.

These students are appreciative of the PURA legacy of passing it forward to help relieve their financial burden and they are grateful for this assistance. Please consider making a year-end donation to grow these endowments to provide more annual opportunities to help students.

Follow this link giving.purdue.edu/supportpura.html to make a tax-deductible donation online. When the site opens, select a designated fund (PURA Student Scholarship Endowment and/or PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke) and type in amount. Then proceed to payment.

If you prefer to send a check, make it payable to Purdue Foundation, designating on the memo line the PURA Student Scholarship Endowment or the PURA POA in Honor of Martin C. and Patty Jischke. Mail it to Purdue Foundation, Gift Processing, P.O. Box 772401, Detroit, MI, 48277-2401.

You also may donate by phone: 1-800-319-2199.

Thank you for your donation.

Charlene Sullivan
PURA President

Melinda Bain
Chair, PURA Scholarship Committee

Volunteer Opportunities for PURA Members

- The College of Agriculture is looking for PURA volunteers to help with hospitality at an event during Fall Commencement on December 21 from 10:30 am to 1:00 pm. Parking passes will be provided. Contact for information and to volunteer is Danica Kirkpatrick danica@purdue.edu.
- PURA members are eligible to apply to be classroom volunteers with teachers or students in grades K-6. Volunteers can serve in any K-6 school in Lafayette, West Lafayette, or Tippecanoe School Corporations. First time volunteers would attend an orientation session with school staff

to answer questions and prepare them to serve as volunteers as well as an opportunity to observe a volunteer in action. Reach out to Jim Freeland jhfreeland45@outlook.com for more information or to volunteer.

- PASE Purdue Alumni Student Experience is looking for volunteers to help connect students to Purdue alumni and friends. Their mission is to build loyalty to the university, instill a culture of giving, and foster the Boilermaker spirit. They would welcome the participation of PURA members. More details on these spring semester events will be shared in future Updates.

Alumni Networking Night - March 5th
6 pm - 8:30 pm in Dauch Alumni Center

Career Readiness Night - April 15th,
6 pm - 9 pm on the second floor of the Stewart Center

Subscribe to Purdue Today to Keep Up with Campus News

Purdue Today, the university's e-newsletter for faculty, staff, and graduate student staff, provides updates on the latest Purdue news. Each issue celebrates achievements in research and innovation and highlights important information for employees. As a Purdue retiree you may find this newsletter a great way to stay connected to the campus. Sign up for Purdue Today at this link if you are not already a subscriber. <https://www.purdue.edu/newsroom/faculty-staff/purdue-today/>

Visit the PURA website www.purdue.edu/retirees for information about PURA activities and benefits.

Questions about PURA may be sent to pura@purdue.edu.