

## February 2026 Update

### **Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Annual Events**

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. Registration is scheduled to open on March 1. A detailed announcement will be sent soon.

**LONG CENTER TOUR and a presentation by the Lafayette Symphony Director** are scheduled for April 8, 2026. Space is limited, and reservations will be required. More information and registration details are coming soon.

**PURDUE DAY OF GIVING 2026** is scheduled for April 29, 2026.

**PURA WESTWOOD LECTURE** in cooperation with the President's Office is scheduled for May 5, 2026 at 4:30 p.m. The speaker will be Allie Gabriel - Thomas J. Howatt Chair in Management. Capacity is limited, and reservations will be required. See more information below and registration details are coming soon.

**PURDUE SPRING FLING 2026** is scheduled for May 21, 2026.

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

### **NEWS FLASH\*\*\*\*\*PURA Monthly First Monday Meetings\*\*\*\*\***

#### **Moving from the VFW to Kurz Purdue Technology Center**

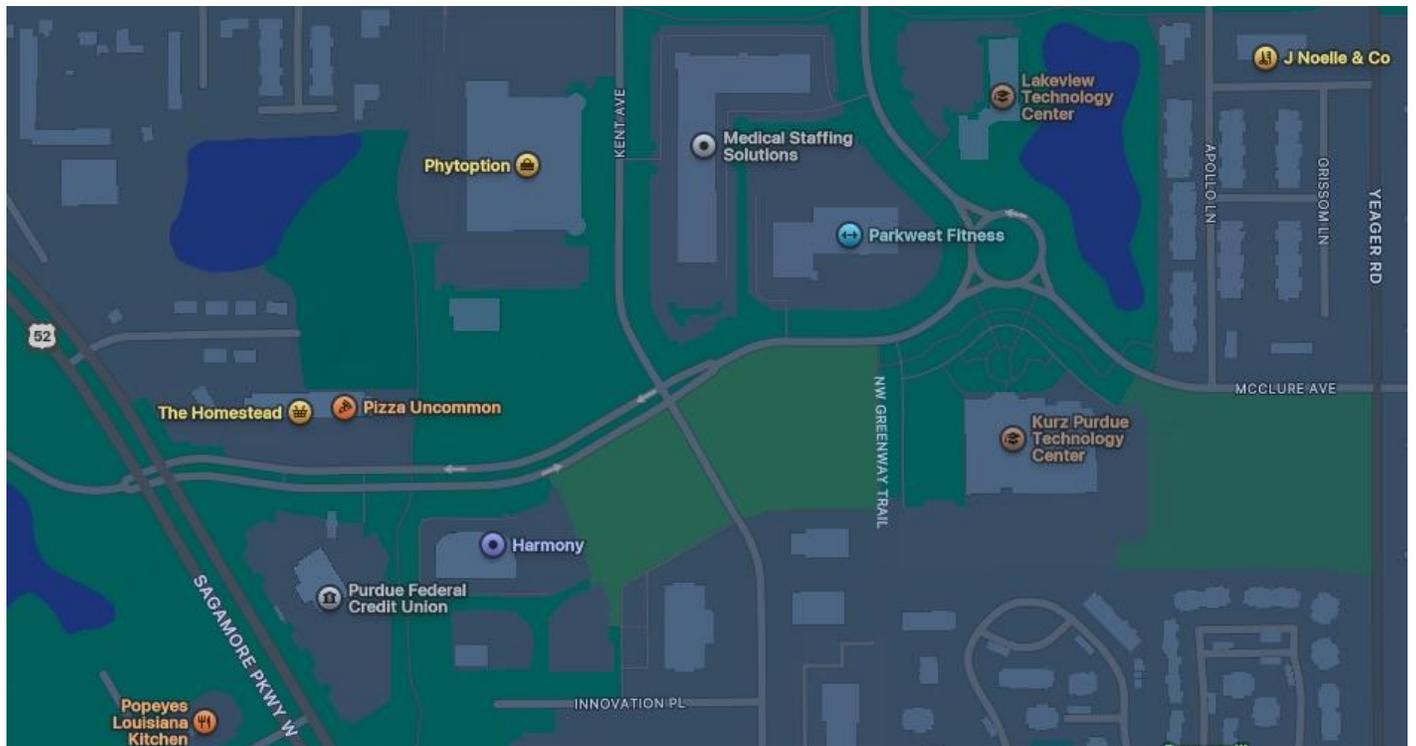
The PURA Executive Committee is excited to announce that beginning with our March 2 meeting, PURA's Monthly Meetings will be in the Kurz Purdue Technology Center (KPTC) located at 1281 Win Hentschel Boulevard in West Lafayette. This new location will provide enhanced sound quality and an upscale feel for those in attendance. Convenient parking is located all around the building, and the meeting space offers streaming capability for our remote listeners. Complimentary coffee will be provided, and snacks are available for purchase in the "Railyard" located adjacent to our new meeting room. There is also the opportunity to stay after the meeting for lunch with friends in the "Railyard."

After many years at the MCL Cafeteria until it closed, and then after the pandemic to the VFW, we are pleased to relocate to the KPTC. The Executive Committee has been on a quest to find a suitable, quality location that meets our members' needs, both local and across the country for several years and is now elated to finally announce this new home for our monthly meetings.

So, plan to “Cruise on over to Kurz” on March 2<sup>nd</sup> for our monthly gathering, featuring speaker Mike Warren, Director of Purdue’s Co-Rec, on “History and Operations of the Purdue Co-Rec”.



The Railyard in the Kurz Purdue Technology Center



Map of the Purdue Research Park – Kurz Purdue Technology Center

## **Upcoming PURA Monthly (First Monday) Meeting Schedule**

Location: IN-PERSON Large Meeting Rooms A & B Near the Railyard at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center, 1281 Win Hentschel Boulevard, West Lafayette, Indiana. Also, via ZOOM broadcast.

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

### **Monday, March 2, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.**

- Speaker: Mike Warren, Senior Director Recreation & Wellness - Purdue
- Mike Warren proudly serves as the Senior Director of Recreation & Wellness at Purdue University. In this role, he provides strategic oversight and manages the departmental programs, services, and facilities at RecWell, the newest name for what we knew as 'The Co-Rec'. Mike earned bachelor's degrees in administrative justice and recreation at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He earned a master's degree in education, recreational and leisure studies from Bowling Green State University. Prior to coming to Purdue, Mike worked at the University of Wisconsin – Madison where he passed a 236-million-dollar referendum to build new facilities and programs.
- Topic: Purdue Co-Rec - Operations & History
- Campus recreation facilities are critical for enhancing student recruitment, retention, and well-being, directly contributing to higher GPAs and improved mental health. They foster a sense of community, provide employment opportunities, and develop lifelong, healthy habits. These spaces serve as essential hubs for social connection and stress reduction, significantly increasing student engagement and institutional loyalty. Purdue's Co-Rec opened in 1957 as the nation's first facility built solely for university student recreation. Purdue's Co-Rec or RecWell as they prefer today, has evolved through major expansions. Our speaker will review the Co-Rec's history and share operational dynamics of this popular and impressive centerpiece for student success.

### **Monday, April 6, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.**

- Speaker: Lt. Anthony Standifer, Officer Police Department - Purdue
- Topic: Purdue Police K-9: How They Are Used on Campus

### **Monday, May 4, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.**

- Speaker: Dr. Libby Richards, Professor, Interim Head, School of Nursing - Purdue
- Topic: Nursing Shortage: Causes and Solutions and Update on the Purdue Nursing Program

**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.**

## **The January Monthly Meeting Program**

### **Webb Telescope Update**

Our PURA program in February featured a very dynamic speaker, Dr. Danny Milisavljevic, Associate Professor of Physics and Astronomy. 49 in-person attendees and 34 “Zoomers” enjoyed his captivating presentation as he took us on a journey to understand the Webb Telescope and what it is doing. His particular specialty is to study how stars live and die as we try to understand “our place” in the universe. He has been featured on CBS’s 60 Minutes, a special on CNN, in National Geographic and other videos and articles. His colorful slides and animated presentation gave us an appreciation of the universe’s size, age, and evolution. Why do all this?...Practical medical applications of technology that came from the Webb telescope program include Retinal imaging (Detection of eye disease at cellular levels), Mammography (Higher accuracy in spotting early-stage tumors), Digital X-Rays (Lower radiation doses and instant results) and MRI/CT scans (High-resolution 3D internal imaging). The complete presentation can be found on the PURA website: [purdue.edu/retirees/](http://purdue.edu/retirees/).



Dr. Danny Milisavljevic speaking to PURA members at the VFW on February 2, 2026

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

### **PURA Westwood Lecture – Hold the Date!**

The Westwood Lecture Series speaker on May 5, 2026 will be Allie Gabriel, the Thomas J. Howatt Chair in Management. Her topic will be *What research reveals about helping employees thrive across work and home*.

Gabriel is the faculty director of the Center for Working Well. Her research examines how employees navigate the emotional, motivational, and relational demands of modern work and how these experiences shape their well-being across work and nonwork domains. She is especially known for her scholarship on recovery, emotion regulation, and women's experiences in the workplace, including issues tied to women's health and motherhood. Her work often leverages within-person and person-centered approaches to capture how experiences unfold in daily life.

This lecture will be open exclusively to members of the Purdue University Retirees Association and reflects Purdue's commitment to offering meaningful educational and social opportunities for retirees who remain closely connected to the university.

Attendance will be limited to the first fifty registrants. Registration will be available online approximately two weeks prior to the Lecture. Additional details and reminders will be provided later.

### **Message from Lisa Duncan - Purdue United Way Liaison**

2025 Purdue United Way Goal \$700,000, amount raised: \$763,200.

PURA members contributed \$220,500.

This was banner year of giving for the University, and the first time United Way of Greater Lafayette has reached their community goal in several years. We are grateful to PURAs continuous support of the United Way and our Greater Lafayette community.

One last note. There will be a Volunteer Expo, for the community, on May 14 from 4 to 6 pm at the Tippecanoe County Fairgrounds. This is a wonderful opportunity for PURA members to learn about volunteer needs.

### **Volunteer Opportunities for PURA Members**

- 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](mailto: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.

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

Alumni Networking Night provides students with the opportunity to connect with alumni and retirees in a professional, hour d'oeuvre-style setting. The evening will be a networking session where students can introduce themselves and engage in informal conversation. The event is designed to foster continuous conversation and professional networking.

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

### **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](mailto: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.

### **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](http://www.purdue.edu/retirees) for information about PURA activities and benefits.

**Questions about PURA** may be sent to [pura@purdue.edu](mailto:pura@purdue.edu).