



March 2026 Update

REMINDER - 2026 PURA Annual Spring Conference - Registration NOW OPEN

The PURA Annual Spring Conference is Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Beck Agricultural Center, easily accessible on U.S. 52 West, just minutes from the Purdue campus. The building is spacious and comfortable, with plenty of close, free parking and it is handicap accessible!

The day, which begins at 8 a.m. with coffee and breakfast snacks, includes a buffet lunch and presentations on topics of interest to Purdue Retirees.

There will be 40+ vendors offering their services with lots of time to interact with vendors and socialize with new and old friends. Don't forget there will be many door prizes. In addition, there will be information related to the PURA Health Insurance for 2026 and Volunteer Opportunities for Seniors.

Register today at www.purdue.edu/conferences/pura

You may also register by phone at 866-515-0023.

Attendance is first-come-first-served and limited to the first two hundred people, so do not delay.

Registration closes March 31, 2026

Hold the Date for these PURA and Purdue Annual Events

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. See registration information below.

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.

REMINDER***PURA Monthly First Monday Meetings*******

Moved from the VFW to Kurz Purdue Technology Center

The PURA Executive Committee has announced that beginning with the March meeting, PURA's Monthly Meetings have moved to the Kurz Purdue Technology Center (KPTC) located at 1281 Win Hentschel Boulevard in West Lafayette. This new location provides 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 is 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."

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, April 6, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Lt. Anthony Standifer, Officer Police Department - Purdue
- Captain Anthony (Andy) Sandifer graduated from Purdue University in December 1999, earning a bachelor's degree in Law and Society. He began his Law Enforcement career in 2001 in his hometown of North Judson where he spent three years before returning to Purdue. In 2008, he became the Purdue Police Department's first canine handler. During his canine handling career, he has had three canines and became a certified canine instructor. Now as Captain, he oversees the canine program and ensures that the handlers and their canine partners can continue to protect and serve our community at a high standard. Captain Sandifer considers Purdue his home as a graduate and a former student athlete in football. He is grateful for the opportunity to continue to educate and promote the Purdue Police Department's K-9 Program.
- Topic: Purdue Police K-9 Unit: How They Are Used on Campus
- The Purdue University Police Department uses certified drug dogs and a certified explosives dog as part of the overall strategy to provide a safe University environment. The drug and explosives dogs are considered dual-purpose dogs, trained in their specific scent detection area as well as suspect apprehension. The Purdue University Police Department's K-9 program is designed to be a multi-functional program, combining the latest in K-9 policing techniques with crime prevention programming. Hear about examples of their use on campus and witness a demonstration.

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

Monday, June 1, 2026 - PURA Monthly Meeting.

- Speaker: Bill Griffel, Director of PMO - Purdue
- Topic: All About Purdue Musical Organizations

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 March Monthly Meeting Program **Purdue’s Co-rec and History**

Our PURA program in March featured Mike Warren, Senior Director of Recreation and Wellness at Purdue University. 51 in-person and 10 “Zoomers” enjoyed Mike’s engaging style that provided a better understanding of this magnificent facility and educated us on the importance of recreation and wellness for our campus population.

Over 50 thousand “entries” per week indicate its popularity but in addition Mike’s operation encompasses over 3 dozen club sports (think Crew and Cricket) and one of the nation’s largest Intramural programs (35 different sports) and the fields/facilities/equipment necessary for them to happen. Mike had us think of the many dimensions of wellness, realizing socializing is a big one, getting students out of their housing units and off their cell phones/computers to interacting. And as sports gain popularity such as Pickleball, they adjust their offerings...18 new pickleball courts are coming in the fall. And lastly, our highly regarded Co-rec facility plays a role in attracting today’s students to Purdue. The complete presentation can be found on the PURA website: purdue.edu/retirees.



PURA meeting room at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center on March 2, 2026



Mike Warren speaking to PURA members at the monthly meeting on March 2, 2026

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

Long Center Tour and Lafayette Symphony Director Presentation

PURA will have a special tour of the Long Center of the Performing Arts at 1:30pm on Wednesday, April 8. The tour will be led by John Hughey, Executive Director. Following the tour, we will have a Q & A with Maestro Gray, who is completing his second year as Conductor and Artistic Director of the Lafayette Symphony.

The Long Center has a storied history. Built in 1920 to replace the original theater that burned down, it was called the Mars Theater. Although originally built as a vaudeville house, just six years after its opening, the Roaring 20's revolution of talking movies soon upstaged the touring troupes. The period's top names were familiar faces on the silver screen. It stayed as a movie house until 1977 when it was donated to the city and renamed the Long Center for the Performing Arts.

Tour attendance is limited to 25 people. Reservations can be made by contacting Debby Sherman.
dsherman@purdue.edu

Invitation to Attend and Participate in the Purdue Spring Undergraduate Research Conference April 14 & 16

Greetings PURA colleagues:

As you may be aware, the Purdue Office of Undergraduate Research and college representatives host multiple undergraduate research conferences. We always look forward to Purdue retirees joining us during our events. This semester's [Spring Undergraduate Research Conference](#) will be April 14 and 16. We will host four poster sessions on April 14 from 9-10am, 10:30-11:30am, 12-1pm, and 1:30-2:30pm in the PMU Ballrooms and research talks throughout the day on April 16 from 9am-5pm in Stewart 214 & 218. We would like to invite Purdue retirees to join us in a formal or informal capacity based on their interests and availability.

- Informally, we invite Purdue retirees to engage with students as they talk about their research projects by attending various presentations. We will have a full schedule of presenters closer to the event for the talks as the colleges are making their decisions on who can present.
- Formally, we recognize the expertise that Purdue retirees bring and include retirees as potential judges and evaluators for the presentations as we determine awards and send feedback to the student presenters. Individuals who are interested in judging can complete the [online form](#) or email me (jjsadler@purdue.edu). As an incentive, any judge who submits at least 6 completed evaluations will receive a \$20 virtual gift card if they are registered through our form.

Additionally, if PURA members are in the Indianapolis area, we will host our 2nd annual [Student Innovation & Excellence Showcase](#) on April 30 from 10:30am-12:30pm and 1:30-3pm in the Campus Center in Indianapolis. There, we have the same informal and formal opportunities for engagement!

If you have any questions about other undergraduate research events or if you are interested in engaging with the Office of Undergraduate Research in other capacities, please let me know!

JJ Sadler
765-494-6505

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.

Election of PURA Officers for 2026-2027

The election of officers for 2026-2027 will take place at the April monthly meeting at the Kurz Purdue Technology Center on Monday, April 6 in accordance with the PURA bylaws.

Slate of PURA Officers for 2026-27

President	Tim Luzader
President-elect	Dennis Minchella
Past President	Charlene Sullivan
Secretary	Rosie Ricci
Treasurer	Larry Biehl

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 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.

Career Readiness Night - April 15th

6 pm - 9 pm on the second floor of the Stewart Center

Career Readiness Night is an interactive professional development event designed to prepare students for their transition into the workforce. The evening will feature resume reviews, mock interviews, alumni, and student panels. Our goal is to give students meaningful, real-world insight concerning the current job market while strengthening connections within the Purdue community.

Here is the link to sign up. [PASE Career Readiness Night](#)

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.

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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.