Drew Thoennes Exemplifies IMPACT

Drew Richard Thoennes, a junior from Lafayette majoring in computer science and mathematics, makes an impact through his everyday actions in student organizations. Drew is the director of donations for the ACE Campus Food Pantry. Located in the Baptist Student Foundation, 200 N. Russell Street, ACE provides groceries and more to members of the Purdue community who experience food insecurity.

As donations director, Drew helps to coordinate donations of food and dollars and the thanking of donors. Drew said, “You’d be surprised by the diversity of the people who walk in the door. It’s not just grad (continued on back)

Center for Professional Selling

The Center for Professional Selling is located on the third floor of Matthews Hall. It serves as a hub of experiential learning for students who either seek a professional sales career or desire to supplement their education by developing selling skills. The Center prioritizes community service, making it one of the most treasured core values.

Recent Center projects include making blankets for children in the Ronald McDonald House in Indianapolis, serving food at Lafayette Transitional Housing, and planning, preparing, and serving meals at Riley Hospital for Children. More information at: purdue.edu/proselling/index.php

Instruction Matters: IMPACT Program

The IMPACT program (Instruction Matters: Purdue’s Academic Course Transformation) creates student-centered teaching and learning environments. Program goals include refocusing the campus culture on student success, increasing student engagement and competence and conducting research to benefit future courses and the institution. Thus far, 641 courses with 385 instructors have been transformed. IMPACT fellows report significant increases in teaching satisfaction, pedagogical practices and student engagement. To learn more about the IMPACT team or to become a fellow, visit: https://www.purdue.edu/impact/

Upcoming Events

What Can You Do Now?

Growth Mindset LUNCH & LEARN
January 23 at noon in Krach 230

Steps to Leaps in the Classroom LUNCH & LEARN
February 5 at noon in Krach 230

Leadership & Professional Development LUNCH & LEARN
March 3 at noon in Krach 230

Generation Z Lunch & Learn
March 9 at noon in Krach 230
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students, who we see often, but it’s also Purdue staff and faculty. It’s people from the community. It’s people you might not expect, all in need, and we’re so happy to be on campus to help them and make an impact.”

Drew has been involved in BoilerMake, Purdue’s regional hackathon attended by thousands of students from other universities. “A hackathon is a weekend event where you get together with a team of people and create a really cool project,” Drew said. “You get the chance to learn so many new technologies, interact with companies and be with other computer science (CS) majors.”

Drew has won both BoilerMake and Hello World, Purdue’s 24-hour introductory hackathon for freshmen that immerses the participant in hacker culture in a beginner-friendly environment. Now, Drew wants to give back to the new generation of CS students. “Classes for CS are getting bigger with even more people to impact. I want to make it known that Purdue is this really good school, and we have all of these amazing opportunities. I want to make sure they feel like they have a home here, because when I got onto campus I did not feel that until I participated in BoilerMake.”

As a member of Pi Lambda Phi fraternity, Drew was a new member educator teaching about the history of Pi Lambda Phi and about Greek life on campus. Then he moved to the communications committee.

Drew is also a judicial board officer for Pi Lambda Phi. Drew said, “If a brother makes an infraction, he is recommended to the judicial board. I think there’s a misconception that we simply give a slap on the wrist or a fine. But we run our judicial board as a corrective. If someone comes to us with an issue, we try to figure out what the problem is, and then work with the brother to ensure that it doesn’t continue. We have an impact on these brothers who come to us with problems in their personal lives.”

After graduation, Drew hopes to work in software engineering at a large tech firm. He will intern with the online coupon firm Honey located in Los Angeles in summer 2020.

Learn more about the ACE Campus Food Pantry:
https://www.purdue.edu/vpsl/leadership/About/ACE_Campus_Pantry.html

Learn more about BoilerMake:
https://boilermake.org/

RESEARCH - Impact of Service Learning

While service-learning programs have become popular on college campuses across the country, there has been relatively little empirical data about their effects on students. The Comparing Models of Service-Learning research project has gathered data from over 1500 students at 20 colleges and universities to attempt to answer some of the pressing questions about the value added to students by combining community service and academic study.

The study has found that students who choose service-learning differ from those who do not in the target attitudes, skills, values, and understanding about social issues. And participation in service-learning has an impact on these outcomes over the course of the semester.


Walter-John McGowan volunteers at the Columbian Park Zoo sanitizing trays used to feed the animals on the 2018 MLK Day of Service.

Purdue University Marketing & Media/Mark Simons