



Office of the President

September 16, 2024

Joseph Habig
Deputy Director and Acting State Budget Director
Indiana State Budget Agency
State House, Room 212
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Chris Lowery
Commissioner
Indiana Commission for Higher Education
101 West Ohio Street, Suite 300
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Partners in Education,

On behalf of the students, employees and trustees of Purdue University, I respectfully submit our operating and capital state appropriations request for fiscal years 2025 to 2027.

Purdue's execution for excellence at scale in the areas of learning, research and engagement has led to new records in almost all dimensions during the most recent fiscal year. It is a testament to the tremendous efforts by our faculty, staff, students and alumni, touching every aspect of this dynamic university full of momentum.

In both the QS and Times Higher Ed worldwide rankings, Purdue is ranked among the top 10 American public universities. Purdue has enjoyed six straight years as a top 10 Most Innovative university as designated by U.S. News & World Report, and overall, Purdue ranked No. 43 among 435 U.S. universities, rising to the highest position in school history. Global University Visibility rankings have Purdue as the No. 1 most recognized public university in the U.S. Purdue is Indiana's only top 10 public university, most trusted university and most innovative university.

The Purdue University system enrolls over 107,000 students. This fall's class of undergraduate Boilermakers starting in West Lafayette was selected from a record-setting pool of 78,526 applicants. The demand for a Purdue degree has never been stronger. Among Indiana resident applicants, 74% were offered admission to Purdue's main campus, compared to 45% for out-of-state applicants, and most other in-state applicants received offers of admission elsewhere within the Purdue system. Enrollment at Purdue University Northwest (PNW) and Purdue University Fort Wayne (PFW) remains stable with PNW experiencing an 18% increase in transfer students from other universities and PFW seeing an increase in credit hour production and retention.

Purdue University in Indianapolis brings the academic rigor and accessible excellence Purdue is known for to the heart of the state's industrial and technological center, strengthening the Boilermaker impact.

There is a dramatically growing need in our state to attract and retain talent well-trained in engineering, sciences, and technological and health care disciplines. A related gap in local capacity for high-end research also exists. Now, with a plan to ambitiously increase student enrollment at the Indianapolis campus, Purdue will create new knowledge and establish a strong pipeline of Boilermaker talent to the capital city.

This new urban expansion is about creating jobs, workforce and innovation together. It is about ensuring that future tech-driven prosperity will thrive here in Indianapolis and central Indiana, with corresponding economic growth and brain gain. It is about fulfilling Purdue's land-grant responsibility, which is why Purdue University in Indianapolis is not a regional campus, but part of Purdue's main campus.

The number of Boilermakers graduating in four years has risen to 67%, the highest in recent record, and the six-year graduation rate remains at 84%, vs. 74% in 2008. The rates at PFW have also experienced increases in both four-year and six-year graduation rates, while PNW rates remain stable, with more focus placed on student advising, success, and retention.

Another positive pocketbook trend: The number of Boilermakers graduating without debt is up 3 percentage points to 64%, while the earnings-to-debt ratio has increased further to 6.7. We are continuing to freeze tuition through at least the 2025-26 academic year. Purdue ranks as the Best Value university in Indiana, No. 2 in the Big Ten, sixth among U.S. public universities and No. 15 among all institutions nationwide. The average amount borrowed for Purdue Northwest undergraduate graduating students with debt is 22.7% lower than the national average and 18% lower at Purdue Fort Wayne. PNW has seen a 3.5% decrease in the percentage of graduating students with debt, and PFW students have a default rate of 2.6%, which is well below the national average of 8.15%.

Over the last year, Purdue signed nine new master research agreements with industry partners, including one as part of the landmark announcement by South Korea-based SK hynix to invest nearly \$4 billion to build an advanced packaging fabrication and R&D facility for artificial intelligence semiconductor products in the Purdue Research Park. Additionally, Purdue was the only university in the U.S. as a leading partner in winning all three national hub competitions last year – Heartland BioWorks, Midwest Alliance for Clean Hydrogen, and Silicon Crossroads Microelectronics Commons – focused on ensuring the U.S. remains globally competitive in key national security areas.

Purdue is in conversations with a host of key stakeholders on a proposal to attract once in a generation federal and industry funds, which would ensure Indiana's competitiveness through developing a leading-edge semiconductor ecosystem to support innovation and workforce development. An important component in attracting these funds may be state financial support, potentially in the form of competitive funding.

A barometer of Purdue's thriving entrepreneurship culture, intellectual property disclosures have surged to a record 466. Additionally, 290 patents were issued last year, while the number of patent licenses skyrocketed to a record 224. This ecosystem helped establish 16 startup companies based on Purdue research.

Purdue Northwest continues to expand its significant impact on the Northwest Indiana regional economy and workforce development. Most recently, PNW joined the Chicago region's Bloch Tech Hub, a coalition of industry, academic, government and nonprofit stakeholders focused on driving the nation's quantum economy. PNW is working with members of the Bloch on a quantum commercialization center as part of the Roberts Impact Lab, a regional technology transfer and commercialization hub that will become a centerpiece of a new \$40 million-plus downtown innovation district in Hammond. In addition, PNW received the federal designation of being named a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), making Purdue Northwest the largest Hispanic Serving Institution in the state of Indiana. This designation recognizes the university's commitment to serving and supporting the surrounding communities that are driving the growth in the Hispanic student population.

Purdue Fort Wayne begins construction on two highly anticipated projects this fall that will enhance the university's academic profile and fuel student recruitment efforts for years to come. Both projects, the Music Industry Building and on-campus student housing, fulfill major goals of both the university's strategic plan and its campus master plan. The Music Industry Building is an impressive, state-of-the-art facility that will house Purdue Fort Wayne's rapidly growing Music Industry and Popular Music programs. The \$25 million building, which is on schedule to welcome students in fall 2026, will round out an impressive visual and performing arts complex that includes the PFW Music Center, the Williams Theater, and the Visual Arts Building. The building is a culmination of a longstanding public-private partnership with Sweetwater, which is based in Fort Wayne.

On-campus student housing has been at full capacity for the past six years, and a massive new Student Housing Complex being built on the university's North Campus will create 600 new beds to help meet that demand. Scheduled for opening in fall 2026, this \$100 million apartment complex will enable the university to further capitalize on its strong enrollment growth of students recruited from outside of the region and outside of the state.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Purdue University. With your continued trust and backing, I am confident Purdue will continue accomplishing great things that benefit our great state.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mung Chiang
President

Roscoe H. George Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering