



TOASTMASTERS AT PURDUE NEWSLETTER

December 2021

Club #4685166
Toastmasters at Purdue

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**Visit our website and
Facebook page:**

Toastmasters at Purdue Website
<http://4685166.toastmastersclubs.org>

Toastmasters at Purdue Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/toastmastersatpurdue/>

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BRIAN DINEEN

"I'm so 21st century!" I proudly spouted off as I entered the house. My wife tried to, but my daughters did not attempt to hide their chagrin as they quickly exchanged the "here goes dad again" glance. I had just returned from Wang 2501, where Shawn Whitaker and I had staged our first successful mock hybrid meeting, several days before our first attempt to "go live" at a club meeting. However, let me properly dole out the contribution to this new setup – I think 95% Shawn, 5% me is fair. As in, I contributed by furnishing one of the laptops and saying "test, test" to verify that the audio was working.



President Brian Dineen

We owe a big debt of gratitude to our VPE for making August 20, 2021 a historic day for our club – our first ever hybrid meeting. Ever since, our new format has afforded our members the best of three worlds: the chance to meet in-person; the chance to balance pandemic work, health, and geographic arrangements in a way that allows virtual connection; and the chance to learn how to participate effectively in hybrid meetings.

While I believe this has tremendously benefitted our club, our successes have not stopped with this giant virtual leap. We have celebrated completed pathways, new members who have immediately stepped in and contributed to our club, and we just recently received our ribbon for last year's President's Distinguished Club achievement for which we recognize our former President Korina Wilbert's leadership.

As we look forward to some holiday rest and a new year full of hope and regeneration, I encourage you to take a step back, realize the good fortune we share in our common speaking fellowship, and revisit and renew your commitment to developing your communication and leadership skills. And, why not reach out and invite a Purdue colleague to one of our upcoming meetings? I look forward to continuing our Toastmasters at Purdue journey with you in 2022 – either in-person or virtually!

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MEET TOASTMASTERS AT PURDUE MEMBER HILLARY MERZDORF

In this feature, we will introduce a member of Toastmasters at Purdue.
Join me in welcoming Hillary Merzdorf!



www.toastmasters.org



Hillary, can you tell us what you do at Purdue University?

I am a PhD student in the College of Engineering at Purdue University.

Can you share why you joined Toastmasters?

I joined Toastmasters to improve my presenting and leadership skills as I prepare for a career in research.

How has being involved in Toastmasters impacted you so far?

Toastmasters at Purdue has given me opportunities for mentoring new members and serving as a club officer. I also enjoy volunteering at our speech contests.

Outside of school and Toastmasters, what are some creative interests you enjoy?

Some of my favorite hobbies are cooking, watching old movies, and planning post-graduation travels.

It is great to learn more about you, Hillary! Thank you!

Congratulations!



Congratulations to Toastmasters at Purdue Sergeant-at-Arms, **Parag Vasekar**, for completing all **FIVE** levels of the Presentation Mastery pathway!



**Speech
Contests
Coming in
January**

Our club will be holding the International Speech Contest and/or the Humorous Speech Contest in January if we have enough participants. Please let President Brian Dineen know if you are interested in participating!

The Toastmasters International Club Mission

We provide a supportive and positive learning experience in which members are empowered to develop communication and leadership skills, resulting in greater self-confidence and personal growth.

SIMPLE STEPS TO CREATING THE BEST CLUB CLIMATE



Think about the first time you visited Toastmasters at Purdue. Do you remember how you felt? What you observed? What you learned? Can you remember what made you want to return and visit a second time? If you are a member of Toastmasters at Purdue, what tipped the scale and influenced your decision to join the club?

In the [Successful Club Series](#) of speeches for Toastmasters clubs, Toastmasters International identifies a club's climate as the "deciding factor for whether or not guests become members and whether those members continue to participate and remain active."

I was first introduced to Toastmasters as a visitor to the demonstration meeting held for potential members of a newly Toastmasters at Purdue. I can still remember the smiles and warm handshakes of seasoned Toastmasters. Their friendly openness won me over and provided the encouragement I needed to join as a charter member of our club in May 2015.

What can you do to make a good impression on visitors, set an excellent example for new members, demonstrate your leadership skills to the more experienced members, and continue to enhance your club's climate? Here are some tips from Toastmasters International:

- Arrive prepared and on time, at least five minutes before the meeting begins with appropriate materials.
- Offer to help, with meeting set up or helping put away materials after.
- Volunteer for committees and offices, sharing responsibilities to increase member effectiveness.
- Be supportive, by listening attentively and engaging enthusiastically.
- Welcome guests warmly, learning names and sharing about Toastmasters at Purdue.

Remember, a successful club is a team effort. It takes each member actively participating to create the best club climate! Learn more: <https://www.toastmasters.org/resources/creating-the-best-club-climate>

Written by Jennifer Merzdorf, DTM

TOASTMASTERS AT PURDUE NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to these new members joining Toastmasters at Purdue since July 2021
Hanae Sakata • Hanson-Lee Harjono • Yangyang Zhu



JOIN US!

Toastmasters at Purdue is open to Purdue staff, students, faculty, retirees, alumni, and family members of these groups.

We are currently meeting virtually and in-person in WANG 2501 at 12:00 noon every Friday.

Visit our club website

<http://4685166.toastmastersclubs.org> for more information and be sure to click on "Contact Us" to request the meeting link!

CONNECT WITH US!

Like Toastmasters at Purdue and join the Toastmasters District 11 group on Facebook to stay connected and learn helpful tips!

Toastmasters at Purdue: <https://www.facebook.com/toastmastersatpurdue>

Toastmasters District 11: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ToastmastersD11/>