

English Transcript for *Purdue University: Part 1: Getting to Know You*

We're here with Bryant Priester, Assistant Director of International Undergraduate Recruitment for Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. And we're going to be hearing from Bryant, about Purdue and their admissions process today. Bryant, thanks for being with us. >> Thank you for having me. >> Just to get started, maybe you could tell us a little bit about your role and what you do as an Admission Officer. >> At Purdue University, my role is to work with students in the undergrad, International Undergraduate Admissions process. So, my job is to look at all them, both the countries that we have international students from, and develop a recruitment plan that's specific for each country or region of the world. In that sense, I do a lotta travel, approximately 20 weeks a year overseas. I work with, you know, communicating with parents, students, administrators. Government officials from round the US and around the world about the application process, so that students who are most successful in the application to Purdue. >> So you travel a lot. >> Yeah. So, I, I definitely have the opportunity to see many students in whatever educational system that they're a part of. >> Is that one of your, one of the favorite parts of, of the job for you. >> I think you know, for what I do professionally, it helps put things in perspective. You know, worse students come from the challenges that they have to overcome. As they complete you know, their high school experience and as they think about, for our students. wanting, having the opportunity to study in the United States. >> So now that we know a little bit about you, can you tell us a little bit more about Purdue University? >> Absolutely. So Purdue, we're located in West Lafayette, Indiana. We are a small town, but we're located between two large cities, Chicago, the third largest city in the US and Indianapolis, the 12 largest city in the US. Purdue has 40,000 students total. But 30,000 undergraduates. We have about 9,000 international students overall. About 4,500 international undergraduate students. From between 125 to 130 countries, sort of depending on the semester. Purdue currently according to the United States government is educating the most international students in the STEM field in the United States. And STEM refers to Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math majors on foreign students who are studying. >> I'm always telling students that U.S. universities and colleges each have their own unique personality. >> Mm-hm. >> How would you describe the personality [COUGH] of Purdue? >> I would say that, you know, the students who ultimately come to Purdue generally they have a sense of purpose. Many of our students, especially our international students I think they sort of see like, the end game. They are definitely interested in how can I make my country, how can I make my society or just my situation better. Because a large amount of our students are studying within, in the science in the scientific field. I would say that our students definitely want to interact with other students especially with, you know, many of our students are, we have obviously Americans as well, on campus. We work very hard to make sure that students have that interaction, because at Purdue we have the largest international degree seeking freshman class in the US. Our students who are coming to West Lafayette are studying for four full years, so they want the experience just like any other college student you know in the US, from the beginning to the end, you know, and we want to make sure our students feel invested because, at this point it doesn't really matter where you are in the world, you know, they're, they're all considered a boiler maker. >> Hm. >> And that's our mascot at Purdue. >> You probably get this question all the time, what is a boiler maker? >> Boiler maker sort of refers to, you know, I would say in the early, I guess in the late 1800s, 19th Century. They were the people that made the boilers on the steam engine for trains and obviously

to be a boiler maker it requires you fashioning steel and metal, so you have to be very strong, you know? So that is where the term boiler maker came from, so, even though there are other, boiler maker can refer to other things as well but that's what we, that's what we use in terms of boilermaker at Purdue. >> And just a note to the students watching, mascots at U.S. schools are pretty important so you might come across some seemingly funny ones like the boiler makers at times. [LAUGH] Great, all right, so, along the lines of personality. >> Mm-hm. >> What types of students succeed at Purdue and who struggles, and why might those students either succeed or struggle? >> I think it's fair to say that, obviously, Purdue has, is a very large school. Students who ultimately succeed are students who take advantage of the resources that we have. And also, if there are difficulties or things that they need, they need, they are, they feel empowered to ask, you know, employees or staff members about, you know, whatever situation they may need more information about. Those who sort of don't understand that or who don't feel compelled to ask for things when, you know, a problem could be in its infancy and then it gets larger. Those are students who probably could have more difficulties in doing that. And in a way to work with students because, you know, there are sort of many different sort of cultural considerations when thinking about, well, I need to ask for help. And so we try to educate our students that during out international orientation, you know. As part of being a student at Purdue, as part of being, working in higher, being a part of a, as a university student in general. If you have questions, ask us. Let us know. Find a staff member. You know, I don't know every single aspect of every single office at Purdue, but you know, my job is to figure out those question, you know. Being a university representative and an employee. So that students are aware of the services for them. >> Now, you mentioned Purdue University has about 30,000 undergraduate students. >> Yes. >> Which puts it into the classification of being a large or very large university. >> Right. >> What is it like to, for a student to attend a large or very large school like Purdue? >> I, I, I always tell, you know, our prospective students, being at Purdue is like being, it's like it's being in the city itself, you know. I mean, in terms of, like, transportation, the bus systems. In terms of, you know, wide variety of restaurants, athletic facilities, walking trails. Multiple buildings, classrooms lesure, leisure activities and the students you know, all around. And then we have nearly a thousand student organizations and clubs. You know, there are multiple faith based initiatives on campus. So, students sort of feel like, you know, you're in a, a city or town itself, I mean Purdue, we have our own fire department, police department, you know, own golf courses, you know, we have our own airport for students who, who want to be a pilot training. So I think they sort of see like this is sort of a living learning community. When thinking about Lafa, when thinking about West Lafayette. And not only the student center, but you know, many of our employees live, you know, in town and next to campus, you know. I live within a 15 minute walk to, to school, so I'm a part of that community as well. So I think that's what students sort of need to know, it's not sort of a fenced off. Sort of area of learning, but this sort of like a, a large community you know, where people are interacting and learning. >> Part of the reason why Purdue is so large is because Purdue is a public university. >> Yes >> Can you explain what it means. When students see a, a school is listed as a public university. >> So, Purdue University, was were, were in the state of Indiana, and public generally refers to, we receive part of our operating budget from the state, our state of Indiana, in order to business on every, on a day, on a yearly basis. That does not correlate with prestige or any other sort of metrics. Just so, a way that our school is, is being financed by our individual state in the United States. >> So Purdue is also known as a research university. [COUGH] officially, it has a classification of RUVH, Research

University Very High research activity. >> Oh. [LAUGH] >> Can you explain what it means for a school to be a research university? >> Being a research university means that, you know, corporations, the United States government. military, et cetera, give money for s, s, professors and students to do research on a yearly or, you know, multi-year basis for a wide variety of things. That's pretty much the, the basis for being a high research university. Obviously, I mean in terms of Purdue we're known as producing 23 astronauts, so definitely lots of contract within aerospace industry. As well, we have a structural center for earthquakes. We just, so, many sort of small things that we work for students on as well in, in our discovery park we offer. Student's opportunity to participate in a contest where we will actually give them money to start their own ventures, as well. So that they can undertake their own research that could lead to further educational research. You know, as students, you know, complete their Purdue degree. So, that's pretty much, you know, what it. It centers around, you know, work, a collaborative environment with companies with new ventures and initiative whether it's public, public companies or private companies, or even governments. >> And the, the research that you're talking about. >> Mm-hm. >> Does that span all fields, or is that just in the science field, for instance. ? >> It, it goes through all fields. Obviously for example for hospitality tourism and management, Marid Industries donated they gave money for a brand new building at Purdue University which, do do with, testing and study abroad experience for current school of management. We have a global program where our students will have the opportunity to study in multiple different countries. Around the United States and also in collaboration with, you know, financial sector companies around the world. So, it's not just specifically to science majors, it's, it, it borders across all of the 200 majors that we offer. At Purdue. Well specifically is food science. We have a wo, world food scholars, which is pretty much the glob, the Emmys of working in food research in our campus, who's job is to find ways of, of working with. In order to make food more accessible to many of the populations of the world where they don't have food. >> Bring me back to- >> Mm-hm. >> Purdue as a whole. >> Mm-hm. >> Can you describe what a student can expect in their daily day life, when they attend a large, public research university. >> Mm-hm. >> And, maybe, from your experience, how might that be different. How might their experience be different at maybe a smaller university? >> I think that, you know, at a at a large public university, there are many options to socialize and interact with people. And I think that, you know, many of our students have to sort of figure out. What am I really interested in, because it's very easy to sign up for ten clubs and [LAUGH] you know, your first semester, your first year. But then, you know, as time goes on you sort of realize, well this is what I really want to do, this is what I really want to focus my time and energy and effort on. As they sort of think about, what they want to participate in. You know, it's with so many students, obviously, you know, you have to make the opportunity to make moments, to see the people that you want to see because you may not see everyone, you know, on a particular given day. In terms, specifically in terms of what you do. I, I should say that, you know, obviously, with so many different majors and schools, the majors are broken up into different schools. So, most smaller schools, you know, all of the majors may be in one particular school. But, you know, at Purdue, for example, engineering is the College of Engineering. You know Hospitality, Health and Human Sciences Food Sciences and Agriculture, so, these are so the majors are broken down into specialty schools which allows students to have more of an experiences that's really specifically to their own degree of study. And every department of school have their own specialized programs, and services specific for their majors as well. That does not mean that students can't interact with each other and that does not mean that students,

you know, students have the right to switch majors. >> Mm-hm >> You know, but you know, that's another line of thought. [LAUGH] But you know, but the point is, you know, students have, students are given, you know, a little bit more leeway in terms of, well, these are the things that you can do, you know, on a overall basis, you know? And, and our, and, and I think that, you know, at the end of the day, trying to figure out what is the best thing for me, you know, if I liked this, I'm going to continue this. If not, then I have the option of doing something else. >> A slightly different question. >> Okay. >> Purdue is located in West Lafayette, Indiana, - >> Mm-hm. >> As you said before. And, West Lafayette is considered to be a college town. >> Yes. >> Which is a term that students will often see when they're doing their, their research. >> Right. >> Can you explain what is a college town and, you know, using West Lafayette as the example? >> Absolutely. Pretty much, a college town refers to, the university is pretty much the center of the experience in the town. Most of the activities, most of the services, most of the programs, is for, for the students, the 40,000 or so students who are in the West Lafayette area, studying at Purdue. So when, when activities happen they're generally for you know, our students on campus. I mean, and infact you know, of general interest we bring in concerts you know, and well-known speakers from around the world. One of my favorite authors is coming to Purdue this fall to give a talk. Even though I may be traveling and I wont be able to see him. You know we, I mean, obviously you know, football, and we're part of the Big Ten athletic conference that's very big. And so all of these programs and events that we do during the year, they attract not only Purdue students, but also you know, the 420,000 alums that we have at you know, across the United States and across the world. You know, who are Purdue as well. We've had alums come from, you know, other countries just to go to, you know, the rivalry games that, you know, Purdue is known. >> Along with being in a college town. >> Mm-hm. >> geographically, Purdue is located in the Midwest portion of the United States. >> Yes. >> Can you talk a little bit about life in the Midwest and what students can expect by living in the Midwest? >> Absolutely. So, and I should say, I'm originally from the East Coast. So, you know, I've, I've lived in Midwest for a number of years because I now work at Purdue. >> Mm-hm. >> But being in Midwest it is probably on, it's a flatter part of the United States. So there's, it's not as mountainous as, you know, the East or the West Coasts. In the Midwest you get four distinct seasons per year. So, you know, it snows in the Winter, you know it's very warm, you know, in the Summer as well. And also being in the Midwest, you know, you're in between, you know, the East Coast, the cities of the East Coast, and the cities of the West coast. So, it is, is pretty much being in the middle of the United States in that sense. Generally the cost of living is cheaper. And you know, the roads are less crowded. [LAUGH] Easy to get around, in general. and, and, and I think that, you know, students sort of feel the way I like to describe, I guess, the sensibility of being in the, in the Midwest, if, you know, you've watched the movies and you see the American flags, and the porches, and the parades, and the town square, that sort of gives you, that sort of like, the idea of being in the Midwest, I guess, you know. Living there you know for, numerous amount of years now so. >> And what are, what are the people like in the Midwest? >> I think everyone is generally nice wherever you go in the United States. I, I, I wouldnt say that's, you know, any different than you know being in the new, in the US, but you know. You know, being a part of a university town that I can speak to specifically, you know, I mean, obviously the people who work and who, who are from Indiana, who work at Purdue, they know, you know, that Purdue is definitely, We received many international students and families from all over the world on a yearly basis and people go out of their way to make people feel at home in the community. I think that is something that is not

just unique to the Midwest, just in general, you would find that. overall. But, you know, I definitely think, you know, but in the Midwest, you know, people invite you to a potluck, you know, or a picnic, or, or these things. You know, I, I definitely see that happens slightly more often, you know, being, you know, in the smaller towns there, so, in Indiana. >> All right, we're going to take a quick break, and we'll be right back to hear more from Bryant. About the application process.