ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Bharat Bhargava
Professor of Computer Science

September 11, 2026

Dear Bharat,

It is a distinct pleasure to congratulate and officially recognize your selection as one of the 2026 PAA Special Boilermaker Awardees. This award was established in 1981 by the Purdue Alumni Association to recognize and honor special people who have contributed significantly to the improvement of the quality of life and/or betterment of the educational experience for a substantial number of students.

The official presentation will be made on the field during the Purdue vs. Washington football game on Friday, October 16, 2026 with kickoff scheduled for 8:00 PM EST. At the presentation, you will receive a replica of an antique locomotive. Your name will also be etched in the marble Awards Obelisk located on the northeast corner of the Purdue Engineering Mall and added to a permanent plaque displayed in the Dick and Sandy Dauch Alumni Center.

The Purdue for Life Foundation will provide you with four (4) complimentary tickets on the 50 yd-line (section 126) for the game. You can purchase additional tickets by contacting the Athletic Ticket Office at 765-494-3194 or by visiting www.purduesports.com.

To receive the ticket transfer, I need the mobile number for a member of your party to send them to and names of those in attendance. Once tickets are transferred, you should be able to forward them to others in your party who may be entering the stadium separately. The on-field awards ceremony will take place during one of the media timeouts. We will meet about 5 minutes before our assigned time slot in the concourse and proceed as a group to the designated area on the field. Additional instructions for gaining access to the football field and timing will be provided prior to the game. You will be introduced by the stadium announcer and presented with the award. The ceremony will be projected on the Ross-Ade Stadium jumbotron.

Additionally, the Purdue Alumni Association Board of Directors would like to cordially invite you and guests to the Volunteer Appreciation Tailgate at the Dauch Alumni Center on Friday evening from 5:00 – 7:00 PM. Here is the link to register: Volunteer Appreciation Tailgate Registration. Free parking is available at the center and then the group can progress up to the President's Council shuttle at Grant parking garage to travel to the stadium if desired. The shuttle runs for two hours before the game and 30 minutes following from Grant garage to the NE corner of Ford Dining Court.

If you have any questions about any portion of this recognition, please contact Joel Hartman at 812-592-7411 cell / 765-494-0430 office or jbhartman@purdueforlife.org.

Please accept our heartfelt congratulations on behalf of all those students, staff, and Boilermakers everywhere that you have positively impacted over the years. Purdue University is a better place thanks to you!

Sincerely,

Danita Rodibaugh

2026 PAA Special Boilermaker Award Selection Committee Chair
Immediate Past Board Chair
Purdue Alumni Association Board of Directors

Joel Hartman

Executive Director
Volunteerism & Campus Engagement