Working engineers and STEM professionals seeking to further their educations have looked to distance learning options offered by Purdue Engineering for more than 60 years. With the growth of online education and emerging technologies, the online education realm has advanced dramatically. More and more learners have been attracted by the high-quality engineering program.

Now the College of Engineering is showcasing for everyone -- including current staff, faculty and students -- what it has to offer online today.

On Oct. 9-12, 2018, the Purdue Online - College of Engineering collaborated with others to present a series of events plus an exhibition to highlight ongoing and new dimensions in its lifelong learning opportunities. Events were in Wang Hall. The leadoff event featured opening remarks by President Mitch Daniels, Executive Vice President and Chief Information Officer, Gerry McCartney, and the college and online learning by Mung Chiang, the John A. Edwardson Dean of the College of Engineering. The event was at 11 a.m.-2 p.m in Wang Hall, Room 2599.

For the celebratory week, Purdue Online Learning, College of Engineering collaborated with the University’s overall Purdue Online Learning unit, ITaP and its Teaching and Learning Technologies section, Engineering faculty, the Engineering Computer Network and others.

More and more universities and institutions are shifting attention to meet the growing demand for online programs. How to cope with the changes and stay as a competitive player in the online education paradigm has posed great challenges.

As a top-notched public research university, Purdue has a long history of providing distance education. Multiple colleges/schools have successful tracks of distance programs (e.g., College of Engineering, Krannert School of Business). However, most colleges or units are doing online programs individually, resulting in repetitive work and waste of resources. One effort of Purdue online community is to aggregate all resources to form a central unit for online education and empower all units/colleges to work together as a whole for better online programs. In the meantime, multiple questions are brought up for further clarification:

- How to get different colleges and units involved and working together?
- How to maximize the supporting resources in a central unit?
- How to strengthen communication between central unit and different colleges?
- How to decrease the amount of repetitive work among colleges and add value to everyone’s working time?

Propose a joint-effort event among POL, POL Engineering, College of Education, College of Agriculture, and Krannert School of Business, creating an inclusive opportunity to involve all units in the Purdue Online community and share knowledge, experience, challenges, and vision.