

ALUMNUS Q&A WITH...

Serving as principal at James Cole Elementary School in Lafayette, Ind., Mike Pinto (BA '90, MS '96), oversees the daily operations of the school. He collaborates with his staff and others in the Tippecanoe School Corporation to deliver educational instruction to students.

Alex Borst, assistant director of development:
Why did you choose Purdue?

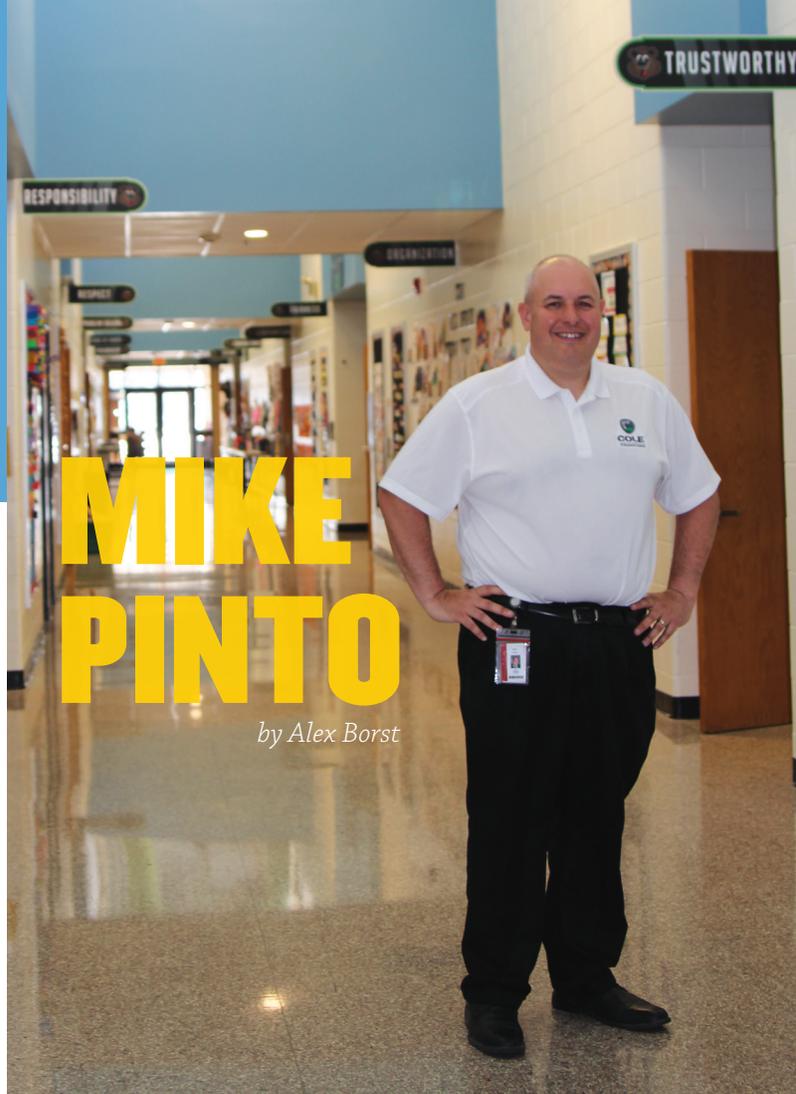
Mike Pinto: "I attended Purdue because I grew up locally and recognized Purdue's academic reputation. I knew that my education programming would be solid and that my electives would be amazing as well. For example, my geoscience elective was taught by a scientist who had often visited Antarctica. Solid reputation and great education, although an education major at Purdue was an anomaly and a male elementary education major was even more so."

AB: Why did you major in education?

MP: "I am a baseball man and loved coaching and children. I found that I had a knack for working with children and thought, 'This is something I should do my whole life.' I haven't been wrong in that decision."

AB: What do you love most about being an educator?

MP: "When I lay my head on the pillow each night I know I have made a positive impact on at least one child and one adult in my path. Most days the number is so much greater than one in both worlds. Plus, it is just fun being around children all the time. They have an energy and a spark that makes life wonderful."



by Alex Borst

AB: How has your Purdue degree afforded you advantages?

MP: "Purdue offered me a good, solid education. Because I stayed locally as an educator, I have benefited from being able to participate in many activities to professionally develop and also to give back."

AB: What advice do you have for future educators?

MP: "This is a hard job being made more difficult by greater needs outside the mission of instruction. Be prepared. If you are not 'all in' for children, step aside for someone else because the children need you. I look upon this profession as a calling—one that demands a lot from all who are entrenched in it daily. It is also a profession that deserves the utmost respect. I would tell any educator that we must all buoy our profession by being the best we can be—constantly learning and growing and making ourselves better. The children deserve it."