

North News Briefs



JULY 2023

Welcome to this month's North News Briefs. If you have news you would like to share with the North Seattle College community, please send it to northcommunications@seattlecolleges.edu. The content submission deadline is the last day of the month. Please try to keep your submission to 150 words or less.

DID YOU KNOW?

* **July is Disability Pride Month** – For the past 33 years, July has been an important month for the disability community. The Americans With Disabilities Act was passed on July 26, 1990. That year, Boston became the first city to celebrate Disability Pride Day with a parade. Since then, cities across the country have followed suit with marches, pageants and parades. Disability Pride Month has celebrated disabled people, their identities and culture, and their contributions to society. It also seeks to change the way people think about and define disability, to end the stigma of disability, and to promote the belief that disability is a natural part of human diversity in which people living with disabilities can celebrate and take pride. [Learn more.](#)



PEOPLE



* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in June were **Renee Almatierra**, student success specialist, Advising; **Kristen Burton**, executive director, Campus Operations; **Daniel Grollmus**, instructor, Mathematics; **Norma Jenner**, student success specialist, Advising; **Caleb Martin**, student success specialist, Advising; and **Daniel Yzaguirre-Vidaurre**, student success

specialist, Advising.

* **Joe Smith Receives Special Award from WSCPA** – Accounting faculty member Joe Smith is being honored this summer by the Washington Society of Certified Public Accountants with its Special Award and will be featured in the the WSCPA magazine. In bestowing the honor, the WSCPA noted Joe has been an important advisor in helping develop its new associate scholarship program and helping award grants to organizations looking to improve the pipeline of the profession. Joe is currently serving as vice president of the Board of the Washington CPA Foundation, and has worked for years inspiring students and encouraging them to pursue the CPA profession and accounting careers. Congratulations, Joe!

* **Former Student Visits Governor's Mansion, Highlights**

Entrepreneurship Program – Nathanael Engen, former North student and founder of Black Forest Mushrooms, recently visited Gov. Jay Inslee and First Lady Trudi Inslee at the Governor's Mansion to plan the inoculation of mushrooms into the site's garden. The venture symbolizes an intersection of nature, sustainability and community empowerment. The mushrooms harvested from the garden will serve multiple purposes, providing nourishment for local food banks, sustenance for missions and a unique local flavor for VIP dinners at the state capitol. During the visit, Nathanael shared with the



Inslees that he was profoundly influenced by Prof. Dave Eberhardt and the Entrepreneurship program at North.



* **Kristen Burton Joins North Executive Team** – Kristen Burton (pictured) has joined North as the new executive director of Campus Operations. Her first day was June 26. In her role, Kristen is part of North's executive team. She comes to North after spending the past 10 years in health care serving the senior population – specifically dementia and mental health – in the roles of executive director for With a Little Help In-Home Care and director of operations and general manager for Aegis Living. To learn more about Kristen, please see the June 29 email from Dr. Chemene Crawford, former North president. Welcome, Kristen!

* **Molly Brown Named Advising Director** – Molly Brown was selected to serve as the permanent advising director at North, effective June 16. Molly has served as an academic advisor and transfer programs coordinator at North since 2018. Previously, she served as a completion coach and manager of the Running Start Program. For more details on Molly's appointment, please see the June 6 email announcement from Alice Melling, executive dean, Student Success. Congratulations, Molly!

* **Arnulfo 'Oso' Ramirez Named Campus Security Program Manager** -- Congratulations to Arnulfo 'Oso' Ramirez, who was recently promoted to campus security program manager at North. Previously, Oso served as a campus security officer.

AROUND CAMPUS

* **Class of 2023 Honored During Commencement** – North's class of 2023 was honored during the Seattle Colleges commencement ceremony June 22 at T-Mobile Park in Seattle. Some 939 graduates completed their programs and earned a degree or certificate during a time in which students have faced many challenges, not the least of which was a global pandemic that drastically changed the way the college community taught and learned over the past three years. [Learn more.](#)



* **NSC Faculty Vote to Adopt Uniform Grade Scale** – North faculty voted to adopt a common percentage-to-decimal grade conversion chart for college-wide use beginning fall quarter 2023. North's Curriculum and Academic Standards (CAS) committee recommended approval of the faculty's decision, and in May it was approved by Pete Lortz, vice president for Instruction. The new chart aligns with recently adopted charts by North's sister colleges, Seattle Central College and South Seattle College. [Learn more.](#)

* **Summer Hours for Student-Facing Services** – Summer hours for North's student-facing services are in effect and continue through Sept. 1. In-person services are available Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and virtual services are available Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. In addition, Admissions, Advising, Enrollment Services and Workforce Education Funding will be available virtually until 7 p.m. on Tuesdays. [Learn more.](#)



*** Latine Mural Unveiled on Campus** – An inspiring new mural was recently unveiled during a June 14 celebration. Designed by Seattle-based Mexican-American artist and illustrator [Grace Gonzalez](#), the mural, Blooms of Change, was painted by art students and is located on the Opportunity Center building on the south end of the NSC campus. Kelda Martensen, NSC Visual Art faculty and co-chair of the college’s art council, credited the student muralists with bringing Gonzalez’s vision to life. “The students did a stunning job painting this amazing mural,” Martensen said. “They not only painted it, but they also rendered, budgeted and drew up their own mural proposals as

part of the course. This experience will serve them well going forward.” Student muralists included Martin (Ryan) Agnew, Carolina (Fania) Burmudez, Ella Blanchard, Mallika Bubb, Michelle Carranza Velasco, Kai (Lorenzo) Castro, Inez Chiapella, Jasmine Cordova, Henry Cross, Sofia Gomez, Kelsey Long, Tatiana Martinez, ET Paine, Chloe Rotenberg and Quan Wang. In addition to the student painters, Martensen credited Tania Hino, NSC Parent Education faculty, with bringing the mural theme forward. NSC Arts Council members were also heavily involved, including Desirae Beedle, Cristobal Borges, Abel Briant, Rose Buchanan, D’Andre Fisher, Jillian Fisher, Amanda Knowles, Zola Mumford, Zuleica Olvera, Brian Palmer, Rakhee Phelps, Paula Rebsom, Arbor Sol, Toni Stankovic and Karen Stuhldreher. [Learn more.](#)

*** Students Receive Certification as Certified Fiber Optics Technician** – Eleven students from the Introduction to Fiber Optics class (EET 108) completed the Certified Fiber Optics Technician Certification (CFOT) in spring quarter. The CFOT is provided through the Fiber Optics Association, which is chartered to promote fiber optics through education, certification, and standards. The CFOT certification includes passing an intensive exam, as well as 10 weeks of hands-on training addressing skill sets required of fiber optics technicians using state of the art test equipment. This training is made possible by generous funding from federal and state grants as well as student lab fees.

*** DSP Tool for Students Launched at End of Spring Quarter** – The math-directed self-placement (DSP) tool launched at the end of spring quarter. The DSP marks a significant change for students, where instead of being placed into their appropriate level of math using high stakes tests, students are being placed based on a tool where they get to explore what types of questions/materials they would encounter and then make an informed decision. This will help with the goal of increasing students’ progression through math. In addition, DSP is incredibly important for BIPOC students, as high stakes testing disproportionately affects BIPOC students negatively.

*** Renewal of Johnson Controls Grant to Focus on Retention of Underrepresented Students** – The Johnson Controls grant in the amount of \$100,000, administered through the Seattle Colleges Foundation, has been renewed for fiscal year 2023-24. The grant will be focused on improving retention of underrepresented students. Funds will be used to partially fund a full-time electronics navigator role, provide paid teaching and lab assistant opportunities for students, and provide \$30,000 in scholarships to currently enrolled electronics students with the goal of encouraging persistence in the program. For the 2022-23 academic year, nine Electronics students were awarded \$2,150 scholarships from Johnson Controls for a total of \$19,350.

*** Students Present at Consortium Capstone Showcase Event** – For the first time, NSC Application Development (AD) Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) students joined a consortium capstone showcase event held at Northeastern University in South Lake Union. Three groups from the AD BAS capstone/internship course were chosen to present their final project to faculty and students from other community and technical colleges, as well as industry professionals. This was a great opportunity for students to share their hard work on a chosen capstone project and to address

both technical and non-technical questions and challenges. An opportunity to network upon completion of final presentations was also provided.

*** Archaeology Field School Investigates NSC Site for Second Year** – This month, North students are partnering with Edmonds College students on an archaeological dig on campus at the site of remnants of the Kumasaka Farmhouse and Green Lake Gardens Co. The location, near the southbound lanes of I-5 and the pedestrian bridge, consists of residential and greenhouse debris and infrastructure associated with a first-generation Japanese-American family. This is the second year at the site, and the focus of the excavation will be the pre-World War II community center and outbuilding. For information on last year’s field school project, see [this article](#).

*** Construction Updates** – Here is an update on current projects:

- **Library** – Furniture delivery continues and installation of book stacks is currently progressing. Facilities is targeting mid-July for the college to start accessing the third and second floors for installing books, IT equipment, etc. Access to the first level is targeted for August. Substantial completion is scheduled for the second week in September.
- **Classroom Renovations** – This project is complete and new furniture has been delivered.
- **Facilities Update** – Facilities has contracted with SSW Architectural Services for assistance in preparing for the Facilities Condition Survey. The facility walk-through with the state board is scheduled for July 12.



*** Coming Soon to North** – North is excited to welcome Black Coffee Northwest, which will be opening a new location in the old Espresso Lounge area on the first floor of the College Center building. Opening this summer (date to be announced soon), North students get the credit for starting the work to bring Black Coffee NW to campus. Black Coffee NW is a Black-owned, family-owned, community-driven organization providing local youth with job training, mental health services and more. In addition to their delicious coffee, Black Coffee NW offers delectable pastries, refreshing smoothies, tea and snacks to perfectly satisfy your pick-me-up needs. The campus location will also be open to the public. [Learn more](#).