

North News Briefs



SEPTEMBER 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?

*** September is National Preparedness Month** – National Preparedness Month is an observance each September to raise awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time. For 2023, the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Ready Campaign theme is "Take Control in 1, 2, 3." The campaign focuses on preparing older adults for disasters, specifically older adults from communities that are disproportionately impacted by the all-hazard (natural and human-made) events, which continue to threaten the nation. [Learn more.](#)



PEOPLE

*** Interim President Named** – Seattle Colleges Chancellor Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap announced last week that Dr. Rachel Solemsaas (pictured) has been named interim president of North, effective Sept. 16. In her email to the North community, Dr. Chareunsap said that Dr. Solemsaas stood out among a diverse group of finalists – in particular, her experience as a college CEO, serving as chancellor of Hawai'i Community College within the University of Hawai'i multi-college system. Dr. Rimando-Chareunsap thanked Jill Lane for serving as acting president over the summer, saying "I believe her deep care and affection for the North community led her to be an effective leader through this transitional period." For more information, please read the Aug. 31 email from Dr. Rimando-Chareunsap.



*** Delegation Represents North During Vice President's Visit to Seattle** – The office of Vice President Kamala Harris reached out to Chancellor Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap and invited a delegation from Seattle Colleges to her Aug. 15 event on climate change in Seattle. Representing North were administrators Jill Lane and Vashti Bryant; faculty members Tracy Furutani, Cate O'Dahl, Caroline Pew and Paula Rebsom; staff member Sarah Fenton; and students Athena Fain and Abel Briant. (See photos from event below.) The Vice President's visit coincided with the first anniversary of the Inflation Reduction Act, which offers funding programs and incentives to accelerate the transition to a clean energy economy.



*** Rakhee Phelps Receives Excellence Award** – North Marketing Manager Rakhee Phelps recently received the Region B Staff Training for Technical and Community Colleges (STTACC) Award for excellence in promoting professional development for classified staff. She was celebrated during the SSTTACC annual conference at Green River Community College, Aug. 9-10. Region B covers Bellevue College, Cascadia College, Lake Washington Technical College, Renton Technical College and the Seattle Colleges. Congratulations, Rakhee!



AROUND CAMPUS

*** Seattle Promise Welcomes Large Cohort at Summer Bridge** – On Tuesday, Sept. 12, and Wednesday, Sept. 13, Seattle Promise will host [Summer Bridge](#), a large orientation welcoming some 150 students on North's campus. The event will take place from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. both days. A Zoom option is also available Monday, Sept. 18, for those students who cannot attend the on-campus experience. Summer Bridge is well-attended since this is the last time Seattle Promise requires students to gather. It takes a collective effort to connect students to campus resources in a warm and friendly manner, and all North faculty and staff are invited to participate in a [classroom workshop](#), [Resource Fair](#) or [your choice of options](#). Interested parties should complete [this form](#). Please contact [Anna Tran](#), Assistant Director of Retention, if you have any questions.

*** Student Services Hours Updated through Sept. 15** – Until Friday, Sept. 15, in-person student services at North for Admissions, Advising, Financial Aid, Registration and Workforce Education will be available Monday through Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with virtual services available Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Extended virtual services are available Tuesday, Sept. 12, until 7 p.m.

*** President's Day Set for Sept. 21** – With the theme of "Better Together," President's Day is set for Thursday, Sept. 21. The program for faculty and staff will be in-person at The Grove and streamed live via Zoom, from 10 to 11:45 a.m. Join your colleagues for coffee and pastries, provided by the President's Office (beginning at 9 a.m.) and participate in meaningful discussions about why we are better together at North. There will be a student/faculty/staff panel conversation, a fun breakout session, several speakers and more. Please see the Aug. 28 Save-the-Date calendar invitation from Toni Stankovic for additional information.



*** TARC Student Lounge Offers Space for Students to Study and Build Community** – TARC (TRiO and AANAPISI Resource Center) is a new student lounge available for students to study, socialize, and relax between classes. Students can utilize computer stations, small group study areas, whiteboards, free printing and a meditation space. The lounge is also being used for community building activities such as origami, jewelry making and other cultural events. Students can also receive complimentary refreshments.

* **NSC, Amazon Collaborate for Pathways to Computer Science Summer Program** – The Bachelor of Science Computer Science and Bachelor of Applied Science Application Development program collaborated with Amazon for a summer program on June 25-26 June 25 that offered students a two-day experience where they were given the opportunity to interact with Amazon professionals, learn about diversity in CS (and the lack thereof) and engage in a Hackathon to be judged and awarded on Amazon's campus. On day one, NSC hosted and welcomed 26 students from diverse backgrounds, and experiences with programming. On day two, students met at the Amazon Web Services Skills Center in downtown Seattle to learn about internship/apprenticeship opportunities through Amazon. Four teams of students presented their hackathon project that were judged by Amazon employees.

* **Digital Advertising Campaign Under Way** – North's fall advertising campaign kicked off last month and will continue for the next few weeks until the start of the quarter. The digital campaign features video ads on social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok, as well Google and mobile geofencing ads. (Geofencing is when an ad appears on a user's mobile device when they enter a specific location.) Potential students who click on any of the ads will be directed to a [landing page](#) where they can provide contact information that feeds into the college's CRM (customer relationship management) tool for follow-up interactions.

* **Major Events Committee Returns** – For many years prior to the pandemic, North had a Major Events Committee, which was a working group of team members across campus who helped prepare college spaces for events of 100 participants or more. The committee has officially resumed meeting monthly. Members include representatives from the Events office, Facilities, IT Services, Communications, Campus Operations and the President's Office. As you plan any event of possibly 100 participants or more, please refer to the [Best Practices sheet](#) so you will know who to contact in the planning process. For more information, please see the Aug. 14 email from Toni Stankovic, Executive Assistant to the President.

* **Library Opening Now Planned for Winter Quarter** – As communicated recently by Acting President Jill Lane, the anticipated opening of North's renovated Library building will now be Winter quarter 2024. The building has been going through a major renovation for the past two years and, with large projects like this one, scheduling and coordination are always a challenge. With the conditions faced over the past two years, including the pandemic, supply chain disruptions, construction crew staffing and more, there has been great progress. However, the schedule needs to be lengthened a few months and completion is now expected to occur late in Fall 2023 quarter. Much of the move-in activity will be delayed until after Fall quarter ends, and the grand opening is now expected for late January or early February. For more information, please refer to Acting President Lane's Aug. 23 email.

* **Window Replacement in HSSR Building** – A contractor is currently being retained to replace the broken upper windowpane in the northwest corner of the Health Sciences and Student Resources building. A completion date has not been determined yet.

* **District 5 City Council Debate Set for Wellness Center at North** – This election season, Seattle CityClub and the Greater Seattle Business Association are co-hosting public debates for primary candidates running for Seattle City Council in Districts 1, 3, 4 and 5 – all races that do not have an incumbent. The debate among District 5 candidates (representing Greenwood, Northgate, Lake City, Bitter Lake, Carkeek Park, Blue Ridge and Crown Hill) will be held in the Roy Flores Wellness Center on Tuesday, Oct. 17. Doors open at 6 p.m., and the debate will be from 7 to 8 p.m. [Learn more and register to attend.](#)



* **Sign Up for Oct. 4 Club & Resource Fair** – The Fall Club & Resource Fair is set for Wednesday, Oct. 4, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Grove. Use [this form](#) to reserve your table. Once your form is complete, you will receive an email with details about the event. Set up on the day of the event will be from 9 to 10 a.m., with take down set for 1 to 2 p.m. The last day to sign up is Friday, Sept. 22. If you have any questions, please contact [Jeane Robles](#).

IN THE NEWS

* **Additional Media Coverage on Archaeology Field School** -- North Seattle College students partnered with Edmonds College students on an archaeological dig on North's 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. The project has now been covered by several local media outlets, including the Seattle Times, Asian American News, Northwest Asian Weekly, KING-TV, KOMO-TV, KOMO Newsradio, and a story on KUOW radio is expected to be broadcast soon. [Learn more](#).