

North News Briefs



NOVEMBER 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?

* **National Novel Writing Month** – November is National Novel Writing Month, often shortened to NaNoWriMo. It is a U.S.-based nonprofit organization that promotes creative writing around the world. Its flagship program is an annual, international creative writing event in which participants attempt to write a 50,000-word manuscript during the month of November. [Learn more.](#)



**National
Novel
Writing
Month**

PEOPLE

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in August, September and October were **Shawn Armour**, outreach specialist, Workforce Instruction; **Andrea Baumgartel**, interim director, Student Learning Center; **Andrew Buchanan**, associate director, Budget and Financial Forecasting; **Bo Choi**, full-time faculty, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Andrea Dahl**, program manager A, Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs; **Margo DeFiglia**, manager, Math and Science; **Gantuya Ganbold**, snack bar lead, Campus operations; **Myele Johnson**, administrative assistant 4, President's Office; **Jax Mello**, program coordinator, Student Learning Center; **Kate Noson**, faculty counselor, Counseling; **Camille Sasson**, program manager B, Registration and Records; **Rachel Solemsaas**, interim president, President's Office; and **Owen Van Helmond**, office assistant 3, Workforce Instruction.

* **Welcome Margo DeFiglia, Computer Science Academy** – Margo DeFiglia is North's new Computer Science and IT Pathways student support manager. She will also manage the new Computer Science Academy that serves students interested in completing associate degrees in computer science. Margo joins NSC from Seattle's Pacific Science Center where she delivered workshops to guests of all ages and provided programming in the Tinker Tank makerspace. Please see the Oct. 23 email from Vashti Bryant, dean, Math and Sciences, for more about Margo.

* **Welcome Kate Noson, Faculty Counselor** – Dr. Kate Noson is the newest member of NSC's counseling staff. She comes to North with a depth of higher education experience in teaching, curriculum development, international lived experiences, knowledge and training in

neurodiversity and clinical expertise. Please see the Oct. 7 email from Faculty Counselor Jenny Mao for more on Kate and her background.

IN THE NEWS

* **NSC's Heather Price Featured in Chemical & Engineering News (C&EN)** – Chemistry professor Heather Price and Sonya Doucette, chemistry and oceanography professor at Bellevue College, were featured in a recent C&EN article titled, “College educators inspire chemistry students with social justice and advocacy initiatives.” Heather and Sonya won US National Science Foundation funding for the [Climate Justice in Undergraduate STEM: Incorporating Civic Engagement](#) initiative. The initiative will help faculty create course content on the science of climate and environmental change and the effects on communities. [Learn more.](#)

* **Seattle Times Article on Pottery Includes NSC's Myra Kaha** – Myra Kaha, director, Continuing Education, was quoted in a recent Seattle Times article about the city's booming pottery scene. The piece mentions NSC's ceramics class offerings. [Learn more.](#)

* **NSC's Dr. Solemsaas Featured in Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine** – Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, interim president, was featured in the October issue of Hispanic Outlook on Education Magazine's “New Leaders in Education” article. South Seattle College's Dr. Sayumi Irey, acting president, was also included in the piece. [Learn more.](#)

AROUND CAMPUS

* **Spanish Speaking BAS Degree Launches** – Twenty-five students were admitted into the Early Childhood Education Bachelor of Applied Science degree Spanish language immersion cohort this fall. The students are taking their classes entirely in Spanish and engaging in the deep learning and culturally responsive engagement that comes with learning in one's own first language. This was made possible by support from the Department of Children, Youth and Families and a grant of \$143,434 from the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). NSC will be the only public institution in the state to provide this type of degree to ECE professionals who prefer to take classes in their home language of Spanish.



* **New Computer Science Academy** – The Workforce Instruction Division, in partnership with the Math and Science Division and Seattle Promise, launched a Computer Science Academy for incoming freshmen who are interested in pursuing a career in Computer Science. The academy employs a cohort model, in which students progress together to complete the AS-Track 2 with the intention of transferring to a bachelor's degree program in Computer Science. Students who complete the academy successfully will have priority consideration for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science program at NSC. Features of the academy include embedded academic support, dedicated navigation and advising, activities to promote job preparation, as well as networking with industry employers. Eighteen students are currently members of the academy.

* **Women in Watch Making Mentorship Program** – NSC’s Watch Technology program launched a Women in Watchmaking mentorship program with the goal of improving program retention, completion, and equity. Women are underrepresented within the industry and have lower completion rates than their counterparts in the program. Two students have been paired with two mentors; they are focusing on the curriculum, building community, and non-instructional support. The mentorship connects students with women who are graduates of the program and already experiencing success within the industry.

* **Public Health Event Nov. 4 at Opportunity Center** – Seattle and King County Public Health will be at the Opportunity Center on campus Saturday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to provide a number of services, including COVID-19 vaccinations, health insurance enrollment navigation, help with the new immigrant health program, transit program assistance, Basic Food enrollment, City of Seattle Utility Discount Program assistance, and more. If you have questions, please contact [Emily Rodriguez](#) or the King County Community Health Access Program, 1 (800) 756-5437.

* **NSC Golden Star Nominations Due Nov. 17** – Nominations are open for the Fall 2023 Golden Star Employee of the Quarter. Any employee – classified, hourly, exempt, administrator – is eligible to nominate or be nominated. The Golden Star Employee will exemplify these outstanding characteristics: kindness, collaboration, integrity, creativity and going-the-extra-mile. One awardee per quarter receives a certificate award of appreciation from the college, college-wide recognition via email announcement and a recognition gift from the STARS committee. Don’t wait, the last day to nominate is Friday, Nov. 17. [Learn more](#).



* **Tell Your Story: IB BAS Social Media Contest** – The International Business (IB) BAS program is celebrating its 10-year anniversary, and students are invited to share a memory and/or image of their time in the IB BAS program at North. The contest is open to students currently in the program and those who have graduated, so please share this opportunity with those who might be interested. The contest will run until Nov. 30, and prizes include a \$100 gift card. Visit the [website](#) for more details.

* **NSC Leadership Team Update** – During the Oct. 24 Executive Team meeting, the team agreed on a name change to both the Executive Team and the Expanded Executive Team to better reflect membership. The Executive Team will now be called the President’s Cabinet and the Expanded Executive Team will be called North’s Leadership Team. North’s Leadership Team will have a role in leadership development, institutional decision-making and campus engagement and community building. Its membership will be expanded to include the deans, the integration manager at the Opportunity Center and representatives from the American Federation of Teachers (AFT), the American Federation of Teachers Seattle Professional Staff (Pro Staff) and the Washington Federation of State Employees (WFSE).

* **Food Truck Wednesdays at North** – As part of efforts to expand food options on campus, a



**NORTH SEATTLE
COLLEGE**

Office of Communications

North Seattle College | northseattle.edu

College Center Building | 9600 College Way North | Seattle, WA 98103

Mike Sprouse, Communications Director, 206.934.7791

Rakhee Phelps, Marketing Manager, 206.934.5681

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