

# North News Briefs



## DECEMBER 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](mailto: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?

\* **Universal Human Rights Month** – On Dec. 10, 1948, the General Assembly of the United Nations outlined the basic rights and fundamental freedoms to which we are entitled. Two years later, on Dec. 2, 1950, the General Assembly invited all member states and interested organizations to celebrate Human Rights Day. Then, on Dec. 9, 2001, President George W. Bush declared the first Human Rights Week, which has since become a monthlong worldwide observance. It is meant as a time to reflect on the way we treat others, and to do what we can in the fight for equality, especially in a time when topics such as systemic racism are widely being addressed. (Source: *NationalToday.com*)



### PEOPLE

\* **Child Advocacy Center Honors Dr. Solemsaas** – [Dawson Place](#), a child advocacy center in Snohomish County, presented North Interim President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas with its Secure the Future Award during its 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Luncheon Nov. 9 in Everett. The honor was given to Dr. Solemsaas for her "guidance during our infancy" and her "continuous dedication and steadfast support helping Dawson Place provide help, hope and healing to abused children." Congratulations, Dr. Solemsaas! [Learn more.](#)

\* **Meet Christina Purdy, Tutor, Page One Writing & Language Center** – If you're a North student who has come from somewhere else in the world, Christina Purdy may have been where you were. Christina, a tutor at the Page One Writing and Language Center, has been all over the globe during her career. She taught three years at a girls' secondary school in Kyoto, Japan, two years at Universidad Nacional de Agricultura in Honduras, and one year at Dickens Institute in Montevideo, Uruguay. And then, there were "a couple of summer ESL gigs in Japan and China." [Learn more.](#)

\* **NSC Grad Leah Lackey: Rockets to Robotics**– From North to NASA to Cornell, NSC alum Leah Lackey always had an inclination to build things. After double majoring at North Carolina State in French and International Studies, something didn't feel right. Despite being discouraged all her life by those who told her, "Girls don't do math," she

decided to pivot and go into Engineering at NSC. Leah was part of a small group of students who helped develop the college's first Rocketry Club with instructors Tracy Furutani and Mike Steffancin. Her journey has taken her to NASA's Community College Aerospace Scholars Program, Western Washington University and Cornell University, where she is working on a PhD in Robotics. [Learn more.](#)

\* **Students Honored at NASA Space Apps Challenge** – Four NSC students, two of whom are in the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program, won an award at the Seattle NASA Space Apps Challenge. NSC students Vlad Andral, Computer Science and LSAMP student; Sebastian Rios, Engineering and LSAMP student; Riko Niyomwungere, Computer Science student and LSAMP alum; and Zane Schaffer, Computer Science student, participated in the NASA Space Apps Challenge Oct. 7-8. Their project, Moon Glow, won the award for Best Use of Technology, which was awarded to the project that exemplified the most innovative use of technology.

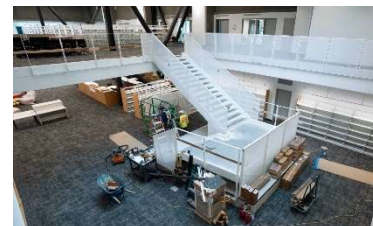
\* **Welcome to North!** Joining North recently were **Dawn Cheung**, grant program manager, College Access Partnerships; **Chloe Cucco**, early childhood specialist 3, Campus Childhood Center; **Andrew McCaffrey**, security officer, Campus Security; and **Ethan Radford**, security officer, Campus Security.

## **AROUND CAMPUS**

\* **College in the High School Receives Accreditation** – The College in the High School program at North received state accreditation through 2026 and will be applying for national accreditation this year from the National Association of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships. NSC offers ENGL& 101, ENGL& 111, ENGL 151, and AME 151 through the program. This program has a proven record of serving historically underrepresented students and serves as a pathway into college for these students.

\* **LSAMP Students Attend SACNAS Conference** – Nine LSAMP students attended the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) conference in Portland, Oregon, Oct. 26-28. Two of the students presented their research at the conference. The SACNAS conference is the nation's largest multidisciplinary and multicultural STEM conference in the country. The program is a great place for Black and Brown students to present and engage in discourse around STEM, build important networks, and gain professional and academic skills. Most importantly, given the vision and values of the conference, the program helps augment students' STEM identities.

\* **Sneak Peek of New Library** – In case you missed it, the new library is on track to be finished soon and open for winter quarter. Thanks to Shawn Rodriguez for this great video of the progress: [check it out!](#)



\* **Food Truck on Campus Dec. 6** – [The People's Burger](#) will have its food truck on campus Wednesday, Dec. 6, from 11

a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parking lot just east of the Roy Flores Wellness Center. For menu, pricing and ordering information, please visit the [Street Food Finder website](#).

\* **STARS Holiday Donation Drive** – The 2023 STARS Holiday Donation Drive for the University District Food Bank continues through Thursday, Dec. 7. Items sought (in order of priority) include hygiene products, baby formula, baby and infant food, and new warm socks. There are donation bins located throughout campus. For more information, please refer to the Nov. 14 STARS email. If you would like to make an online cash donation to the NSC food drive to benefit Food Lifeline, please visit the [2023 Holiday Fundraiser](#) website.

\* **New Student Orientation Dec. 13** – New student orientation for all Tree Frog students is set for Wednesday, Dec. 13, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. The orientation is for students in all North programs, from Running Start to bachelor's degree programs, and everything in between. It provides each student with an opportunity to connect with campus departments and resources, meet faculty and other students, and take a campus tour. If you're available to help with the event, please send an email to [NorthNSO@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:NorthNSO@seattlecolleges.edu). Volunteers are needed to help during a variety of times between noon and 3:35 p.m. Please refer to the Nov. 13 email from Alice Melling for more information.

\* **Fire Drills Planned** – Over the next few months a series of fire drills will take place at North. The schedule is subject to change, but currently the plan is to have a testing/security training drill on the afternoon of Wednesday, Dec. 20 (this drill may also include testing of the public address system on campus). Regular fire drills are currently scheduled for Jan. 16 (9 a.m.), Jan. 18 (2 p.m.), April 16 (9 a.m.) and April 18 (2 p.m.) More information will be shared as the drills get closer.

\* **You Can Still Join the Wellness Challenge** – The Roy Flores Wellness Center's fall challenge is available until Dec. 15. Simply grab a Fall Wellness Challenge card at the front desk and complete each task to enter a raffle for a free membership.

\* **NSC Art Gallery Show Continues through Jan. 12** – The NSC Art Gallery show, *construct*, is open and continues through Jan. 12, 2024. This show brings together eight artists selected for their use of material and how they highlight construction in their work. [Learn more](#).

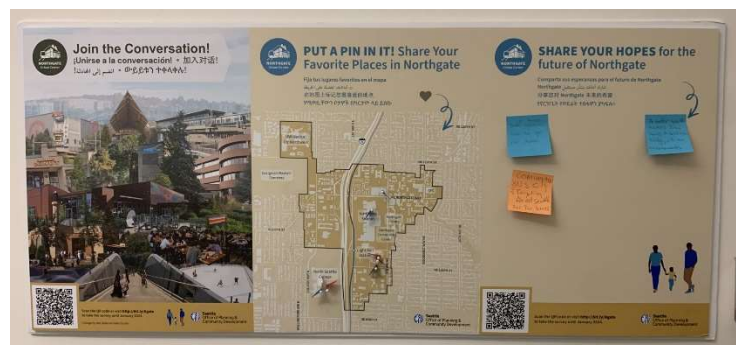
\* **Winter Quarter Ad Campaign Launches** – North's winter quarter marketing campaign launched with both digital and transit ads. The theme is "Your Community. Your Education. Your Future," and the ads are appearing on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Snapchat, Google and via geofence. NSC has also placed exterior bus advertising on certain Metro Transit routes in the north Seattle area and interior ads on Sound Transit Link Light Rail cars. Keep an eye out for our ads and the North logo in our community!



\* **Winter Quarter Pickleball Tournament** – This winter, the Roy Flores Wellness Center is having a four-week pickleball tournament for staff and students. The tournament is open to members and non-members of the wellness center, and will take place weekly from Jan. 17 to Feb. 7, from noon to 1 p.m. [Learn more.](#)

\* **Black Coffee Northwest in Seattle Chamber Spotlight** – [Black Coffee Northwest](#), which opened a coffee shop this fall on the first floor of the College Center building, was [recently spotlighted](#) by the Seattle Chamber of Commerce as a Community Connector-Served Business. The article features owner Darnesha Weary and the community focus that makes Black Coffee Northwest distinct. Darnesha was born and raised in the Seattle area and started a coffee shop in 2020 to support her nonprofit called [Grounded](#), which serves the greater King County area while supporting youth and young adults with employment and training opportunities, after-school enrichment activities and mental health support. Black Coffee Northwest was just selected to receive a \$100,000 Racism as a Public Health Crisis Grant from King County. [Learn more.](#)

\* **City Seeks Feedback on Northgate Plan** – Northgate is one of five urban centers in the City of Seattle undergoing a planning process that will define a community vision and develop neighborhood-specific policies for public services, transportation, economy, housing and land use.



The city is seeking broad community engagement and North Seattle College is one of the sites where feedback is being collected. An interactive poster (see photo) is located on the first floor of the College Center building in the east-west passageway next to the bulletin board. So, next time you stop by Black Coffee Northwest, be sure to chime in and share your experiences with the neighborhood to help create a refreshed vision for Northgate. [Learn more.](#)

\* **Volunteers Needed to Help Combat Hunger** – As hunger and food insecurity continue to grow nationwide and throughout our area, the NSC Food Pantry is seeking volunteers to help keep this operation going strong. A recent survey showed 36% of students at North reported experiencing food insecurity. One way North works to meet this need is through a weekly pop-up food pantry and grocery delivery program. This partnership between North, the United Way of King County and the University District Food Bank happens every Tuesday at the east entrance of the campus parking garage. To learn more and sign up to volunteer, please visit the [website](#). For Dec. 5 or Dec. 12, volunteers who speak Mandarin and/or Spanish are needed from approximately 3:30 to 5 p.m. to assist visitors with understanding our new check-in process. If you are

interested in helping, please reach out to Maura Nakamichi, Benefits Hub manager at [maura.nakamichi@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:maura.nakamichi@seattlecolleges.edu).

**\* Reminder: Student Artwork for Your Public Spaces** – If you are interested in having student art or changing out the artwork in your public-facing area (including hallways), please [submit this form](#) to be considered. Submissions need to be completed by Friday, Dec. 15. The Art Council will review the applications and notify those selected by Feb. 1, 2024, with effort made to hang the work during winter quarter.

**\* Make Sure You Receive Emergency Alerts** – As we move into the winter months and inclement weather is more of a threat to close campus or delay starting times, it is important that all of us have up-to-date contact information in the [SeattleCollegesAlerts](#) system. The system, known as RAVE, is the primary and official notification system used across Seattle Colleges to notify students, faculty, and staff of weather and other emergencies. By default, all staff, faculty, and students will receive emails through the system. It is recommended you opt in for text and phone messages to your mobile device for alerts regarding closures and potential emergencies. Learn more about the system [here](#), including how to update your information and preferences.