

North News Briefs



JULY 2024

Welcome to this month's North News Briefs. If you have news 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 World Watercolor Month** – Founded in 2016, World Watercolor Month is meant to inspire people to paint with watercolor while raising awareness for the importance of art and creativity in the world. Anyone can join the celebration from master watercolorists to artists just starting out with watercolor. One way to participate is to simply tag any art that uses watercolors (or gouache) when you post on social media with #WorldWatercolorMonth during July. You can even try the ultimate challenge of 31 watercolors in 31 days. It's all about maintaining a regular art practice and having fun! [Learn more](#).



PEOPLE

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North Seattle College in June were **Ali Al Khuzaim**, classified staff, Math/Science; **Ana Cecelia Arana**, part-time faculty, Student Learning Center; **Linda Barber**, part-time faculty, Workforce Instruction; **Rebecca Gould**, part-time faculty, Continuing Education; **Helen Greer**, hourly assistant 1, Workforce Instruction; **Kian Mahoney**, hourly assistant 1, Workforce Instruction; **Fady Gadalla Ashraf Mancy**, student worker, Instruction; **Ayesha, Mohyuddin**, part-time faculty, Continuing Education; **Sundi Musnicki**, exempt staff, Student Leadership; **Rahima Rahmanyar**, student worker, Student Services; **Christina Scheuer**, part-time faculty, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; and **Rachael Torella**, director, Disability Services.

* **Anne Forester Serving as Interim Dean of Basic and Transitional Studies** – **Anne Forester** has accepted an offer to serve as interim dean of Basic and Transitional Studies at North. She is returning to North after working at Bellevue Children's Academy/Willows Preparatory School. Anne previously spent 13 years at North, most recently as interim executive director of the International program. She started at North in 2007 as an ESL instructor. Anne received a bachelor's degree from the University of the Pacific and a master's degree in English and a Clear Teacher credential at Cal Poly Pomona. Her interim term begins July 8 and will run through Dec. 31. For more information, please refer to the June 13 email announcement from Pete Lortz, vice president, Instruction and Enrollment Services.

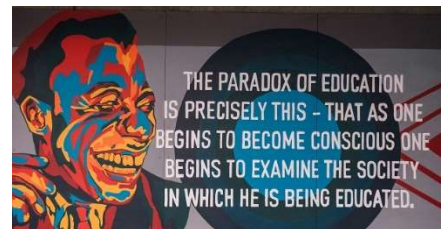
* **New Dean of Student Success Named** – Welcome to **Dr. Andre Davis**, who has been named to serve as North's new dean of Student Success, beginning July 16. Dr. Davis is an

experienced equity-minded, student-centric, data-driven leader with a passion for building cohesive teams and a culture that supports student success while dismantling barriers to student access. He comes to North from North Carolina where he most recently served as director of Student Enrichment, Engagement and Resources at Durham Technical Community College. A leader in student affairs, Dr. Davis served as president-elect for the North Carolina Community College Student Development Personnel Association and participated in the Student Affairs Administration in Higher Education (NASPA) Aspiring Vice Presidents Institute. He holds a doctorate in Business Administration from Walden University and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. For more details on Dr. Davis, please see the June 25 email from Alice Melling, acting vice president, Student Services.

* **Director of Disability Services Joins North** – Welcome to **Rachael Torella**, North's new director of Disability Services, who joined the college on June 24. She comes to North from Wellesley College in Boston, where she served as assistant director of Accessibility and Disability Resources, conducting student accessibility planning meetings and coordinating accommodations for students with disabilities. Before that, she served as assistive technology educator and academic counselor for Bunker Hill Community College, where she conducted assistive technology research and reviewed medical documentation to determine reasonable accommodations. Rachael earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from Stony Brook University, and a Master of Social Work degree from Boston University. She has been working remotely and will start in-person July 15 in the Student Services area on the second floor of the College Center building. For more information about Rachael, please see the June 25 email from Alice Melling, acting vice president, Student Services.

IN THE NEWS

* **North Unveils Mural Celebrating James Baldwin** – The Seattle Medium reported on North's June 12 unveiling of a new mural celebrating the life, work and activism of James Baldwin. The mural, located on the south wall of the library's third floor, joins six other murals featured on the college's campus. [Learn more.](#)



* **Dr. Rachel Solemsaas Named Permanent President at North** – The [Puget Sound Business Journal](#) and the [Seattle Daily Journal of Commerce](#) reported on Dr. Rachel Solemsaas being named permanent president of North. Seattle Colleges Chancellor Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap made the announcement in mid-June.

AROUND CAMPUS

* **New Intergenerational Mural Unveiled** – A new multigenerational mural celebrating the diverse generations of students who have attended the college's cooperative preschools and parent education program was unveiled on June 12. The mural, located on the north end of campus, was pioneered by the Visibility Community Council (VisCoCo) at NSC. The mural showcases the collaborative efforts of current children from various co-ops, alums and artist René Julio, an alum parent of the Pollitos Cooperative Preescolar en Español. René Julio was chosen to lead this project due to his exceptional artistic talent and connection to the cooperative preschool community.

* **Childcare Center Celebrates Graduation of Two Students** – North’s Childcare Center recently celebrated the graduation of two students into kindergarten. This is a wonderful example of the great work being done at the center. The annual NSC Campus Early Learning Center Potluck & Pre3-K Graduation Celebration took place June 6, and the two graduates, Esmail and Rishan, will start kindergarten in September. Congratulations to the grads!

* **Get Ready for 10th Annual CE Student Art Exhibition** – Calling all art lovers! The hottest art event of the summer is coming to North’s Art Gallery July 16 to Aug. 15. The 10th Annual Continuing Education Student Art Exhibition will kick off Monday, July 15, with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. This event will also feature an awards ceremony beginning at 7 p.m. Don’t miss out on this artistic extravaganza!

* **First Year Experience and Orientation to College Success** – Earlier this year, North added a new full-time position focused on building the first-year student experience. This new role homes in on New Student Orientation and supports the long-term goal of making HDC 101 – Orientation to College Success, NSC’s First Year Experience course, mandatory for most students as a degree requirement. HDC 101, housed within the Counseling department, added sections and expanded to five new part-time faculty members teaching winter and spring quarters. During spring quarter, the Allied Health AAS-T became the first NSC degree approved by the Curriculum and Academic Standards Committee to require HDC 101 as a mandatory course.

* **Lifelong Learning Nominations Accepted through Aug. 30** – The Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees is accepting nominations for the 2024 Lifelong Learning Awards, designed to recognize the outstanding employees in our college community. Nominations must be made by employees of Seattle Colleges (self-nominations are not accepted) and nominees must have a minimum of five years’ experience in Seattle colleges. Past award recipients are not eligible; however, past nominees who were not awarded may be resubmitted. Please send your nominations to [President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas](#) and copy [Executive Assistant Toni Stankovic](#) for review and recommendation no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 30. Nomination forms were included in a June 26 email from Toni. You may also contact [Vanessa Johnson](#) in the Chancellor’s Office if you have questions.

* **Help Preserve Metro Bus Route #20** – The Seattle City and King County councils are in the process of reviewing bus routes for future feasibility. One route being reviewed is the #20 Metro Transit bus that serves the North campus, along with schools and businesses in Lake City, Victory Heights, Pinehurst, Northgate, Licton Springs, Green Lake, Wallingford and the University District. To submit your support to continue bus route #20, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/SaveBus20> (please copy and paste the URL into your browser if the link does not work).



* **Summer Quarter Parking Permits, Orca Cards Available** – Employees can purchase a quarterly [parking permit](#) online from the parking portal or sign up for parking payroll deduction

(if eligible). In addition, Seattle Colleges offers generously discounted [Orca cards for employees](#). The cost is \$61 for a \$250 Orca card. These are available from the cashier and require a completed [Quarterly Transportation Form](#). For more information, please review the June 17 and 24 emails from Casey Saunders (Chow), NSC Parking and Transportation Department.

AROUND THE DISTRICT

* **Class of 2024 Honored During Commencement** – North honored the class of 2024 during the Seattle Colleges commencement ceremony June 21 at T-Mobile Park. Some 1,138 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 has drastically changed the way the college community taught and learned. [Learn more](#).



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