

North News Briefs



AUGUST 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.

PONDER THIS

* **August is Back to School Month** – Celebrated since the 1960s, Back to School Month signals parents, students and teachers to prepare for the new academic year. The arrival of August means the end of summer vacation is near, ushering in a transition to school supply shopping, schedule planning and lots of preparation. There are many ways to support teachers and students in anticipation of the 2024-25 school year. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** – Joining North in July were **Eileen Carroll**, Math and Science; **Dallas Chruszch**, Workforce Instruction; **Jordan Crumb**, Workforce Instruction; **Andre Davis**, Student Success; **Anne Forester**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Ava Gharib**, Student Learning Center; **Hodon Ibrahim**, Student Services; **Christopher Lippert**, Student Learning Center; **Sundi Musnicki**, Student Leadership and Engagement; **Hunter Txaba**, Workforce Instruction; **Simon Upton**, Student Learning Center; and **Tiffany Woods-Long**, Student Learning Center.

* **New Manager of Running Start** – **Kathryn (Katy) Foster** has accepted the manager of Running Start position at North. Her first day was July 16. Katy has served as the Running Start student success specialist for five years and, prior to coming to North, served as a financial aid advisor for Bastyr University. For more information, please see the July 9 email from **Alice Melling**, acting vice president, Student Services.

* **New Interim Dean of Math and Sciences** – **Alissa Agnello** has accepted an offer to serve as interim dean of Math and Sciences at North. Her interim term will begin Aug. 19. Alissa has served as a longtime full-time faculty member in Chemistry at North and was dean of Math and Sciences for several years before choosing to return to her faculty role. To learn more, please see the July 8 email from **Pete Lortz**, vice president, Instruction and Enrollment Services.

* **Happenings in Student Support Services** – Following are recent updates from **Jeanette Miller**, dean, Student Support Services. For more details, please refer to her July 10 email:

- **Sundi Musnicki** is the new director of Student Leadership and Engagement at North. She comes to us from Shoreline where she served as director of Student Leadership

and Residence Halls since 2018. Sundi has been working in higher education since 2009, and has held a variety of student life positions at Eastern Washington University and Boise State University, in addition to teaching first-year seminar courses.

- North recently said farewell to **Quinton “Que” Neal**, director of College Access Partnerships, who relocated to the Midwest. Please contact Jeanette if you previously worked with Que, until a new director is hired.
- **Brittany Harper**, director, Financial Aid, has also left North. If you have any Financial Aid concerns, please contact **Suzanne Scheldt** or **Andrea Dahl**, who are working together to make sure all student and staff needs are met.

* **Graduate Profiles on News Center** – If you have never checked out North’s News Center, you are missing out on some great graduate profiles. The News Center is a key way to stay up to date on what’s going on around North. Recently, the Communications team posted new graduate profiles on [Raquel Taylor](#) and [Tin Pham](#). Don’t miss out! Bookmark the [News Center](#) and check it regularly.

* **Oui, Oui: North Alum at the Olympics!** One-time North student **Aaron Small** is quickly getting accustomed to a new body of water – the Stade Nautique de Vaires-sur-Marne. Ordinarily you’d find him and his paddling partner, Jonas Ecker, on Seattle’s Green Lake. Both are currently at the Paris Olympics, representing the United States in the two-man 500-meter canoe sprint, Aug. 6-8. With a seventh-place finish in the 2022 World Championships, and relentless training in the time since, the two are strong medal contenders. [Learn more.](#)



* **Skydiving and Math Tutoring: Looking for a Bigger View** – **Animito Pollina** can appreciate the big picture, in tutoring math as well as in life. Animito, a tutor at North’s Math and Science Learning Center, celebrated his 40th birthday by skydiving, allowing him to see a grander view. In tutoring math, he tries to steer his sessions toward discussions of “the big picture” – using basics that help students get a broad understanding of the subject and gain confidence. [Learn more.](#)

RIBBITING NEWS

* **LSAMP Renewed for Another Three Years** – The [Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation \(LSAMP\)](#) program, which has served more than 160 North students over the past two years, was renewed for another three years, thanks to a \$1.5 million [National Science Foundation](#) grant. The funding enables continued growth of the program, whose purpose is to strengthen the preparation, representation and success of historically underrepresented students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) transfer programs. [Learn more.](#)

* **Student Leaders Needed for Seattle Promise Summer Bridge** – Please help spread the word to our students that we are seeking student leaders, work study and/or Promise scholars to highlight their college experience at [Summer Bridge](#). This is an audience of up to 170 first-year students per day at two final events taking place Tuesday, Aug. 27, and Wednesday,

Aug. 28. The student leaders' voices will elevate the college journey/experience and involvement on campus to support the first-year experience. Promise scholars will receive a stipend for public speaking training and event support. Please send student nominations for this opportunity to [Anna Tran](#), by Monday, Aug. 19.

*** 10th Annual NSC Continuing Education Student Art Exhibition –** Continuing Education and the NSC Art Gallery are excited to announce the 10th Annual NSC Continuing Education Student Art Exhibition, which continues through Thursday, Aug. 15. Summer gallery hours are Tuesdays and Wednesdays from noon to 2 p.m. and 5 to 7 p.m., and Thursdays and Fridays from noon to 2 p.m.



*** Billy Mills Run/Walk for Life Event Aug. 25 –** The annual Billy Mills Run/Walk for Life Event is coming Sunday, Aug. 25 on North's campus from 1 to 4 p.m. Last year, more than 250 people came together to raise suicide prevention awareness. All funds go to support the Urban Native Education Alliance (UNEA) Native Warrior Athletics Program, a volunteer-run program supporting urban Indigenous youth. If you are interested in participating, please [register](#). If you are interested in volunteering, please send an email to kaylaharstad@gmail.com. [Learn more](#).

*** President's Day Coming Sept. 19 –** Mark your calendar and plan to attend President's Day at North in the World Community Center (College Center room 1456, the old cafeteria/temporary library space). This annual event is for all faculty and staff, and will be from 9 a.m. to noon on Thursday, Sept. 19, with breakfast available beginning at 8 a.m. Watch your email for more details coming soon. We hope to see everyone there!

*** Passion & Purpose Leadership Academy Coming this Fall –** The Passion & Purpose Leadership Academy (PAPLA), through North's Teaching & Learning Center, is being launched this fall. You are invited to join the inaugural cohort of present and future leaders at North. Developed by North faculty and staff for North faculty and staff, this opportunity is open to all employee groups, including classified, professional staff, exempt and faculty. PAPLA is a nine-week series of in-person workshops that will strengthen each person's leadership abilities. The sessions will be on Thursdays from 2 to 4 p.m. in the TLC classroom, beginning Oct. 3. [Learn more and nominate yourself or others!](#)

*** Internal Communications Survey Results Available –** Thank you to the 65 employees who responded to the NSC Internal Communications Survey in May and June. The survey, conducted by the Communications office, was available to all employees via email as a way to share feedback about internal communications at North. Our goal is to continuously improve communications at North, and the plan is to share the survey annually, using 2024 results as a baseline. Those [results are available](#) for all employees, and the Communications team is looking at several areas to focus on based on those results. These include more proactively sharing the available channels of communication to help raise awareness of them, looking at ways to be more consistent about communicating the comings and goings of employees at North, helping the organization develop better methods of sharing a calendar of events, and improving communication around campus safety. If you have any questions, please contact [Mike Sprouse](#), director, Communications.

HOPPING AROUND DISTRICT

* **Mindful Meditation Sessions on Tuesdays** – Mindful Meditation Zoom sessions are available free to all current students and staff, led by mindfulness team members from all three campuses, on Tuesdays through Aug. 13. The sessions are from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. The meeting room URL is <https://tinyurl.com/yyx4eh9n> and the password is Bliss! (Meeting ID is 994 361 6626).

* **EAP Events and Webinars Every Wednesday** – As August begins, the state Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is offering [live events and webinars](#) every Wednesday at noon. These Wellness Wednesday sessions will continue through September. [Learn more.](#)

* **Convocation Sept. 17 at South Seattle College** – This year's convocation for the Seattle Colleges is set for Tuesday, Sept. 17, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at South Seattle College's Brockey Center. This is an opportunity to gather, reflect and recognize our colleagues districtwide who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to collaborate drive change and spur innovation in how we serve and support our students and each other. [Learn more.](#)



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COLLEGE**

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