

North News Briefs



SEPTEMBER 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

* **National Hispanic Heritage Month** – From Sept. 15 to Oct. 15, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month, a time to celebrate the heritage, history, traditions and cultural diversity of Hispanic Americans whose heritage is rooted in Spain and 19 countries and territories: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Uruguay and Venezuela. This heritage month is celebrated to highlight the independence of several countries.

Sept. 15 is the day that five Latin American countries celebrate their independence from Spain: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. Mexico celebrates its independence on Sept. 16 and Chile on Sept. 18. Also, Indigenous Peoples Day or Dia de la Raza, in mid-October, falls within this 30-day period. This year's theme is "Pioneers of Change: Shaping the Future Together." [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Leann Dittmar and Pharmacy Technician Program Honored by WSPA** – Leann Dittmar, PharmD, and North received "Pharmacist of the Year" in August from the Washington State Pharmacy Association (WSPA) for making significant impacts in the field of pharmacy through innovation, leadership and commitment to the profession. This award recognizes excellence and outstanding contributions within the pharmacy community. Leann and North will be celebrated at the WSPA Annual Meeting Nov. 8-9 at Suncadia Resort. [Learn more.](#)

* **Graduate Profile on News Center** – If you haven't checked out North's News Center recently, you are missing out on some great graduate profiles. The News Center is an easy way to stay up to date on what's going on around North. Recently, the Communications team posted a new profile on [Nguyen Tran](#), who graduated with an Associate of Arts (AA) - Direct Transfer Agreement (DTA) degree. Don't miss out! Bookmark the [News Center](#) and check it regularly.

RIBBETING NEWS

* **New Online Bookstore** – Beginning fall quarter, Seattle Colleges will transition course material and textbook services to Akademos by VitalSource. This is a new online bookstore

model where students order textbooks and course materials through a website and then have physical items delivered by mail while digital access information is emailed. This new platform offers affordable textbooks and other course materials, convenience and choice. It makes the textbook ordering process easier, presenting materials all on one webpage. Textbooks will no longer be sold on North's campus, so please keep that in mind for upcoming academic terms. The new online bookstore website is expected to be available to faculty and administrators soon, before students are notified, so outstanding course material adoptions can be added. For now, if you have any questions or concerns, please direct them to [Kristen Burton](#), executive director, Campus Operations, or refer to the Aug. 23 email from District Communications.

*** North Partners with Northeastern to Support Student Pathways in Tech** – North has partnered with Northeastern University to support building pathways for graduates in the technology sector. The collaboration is designed to support underrepresented populations in breaking into the tech sector, providing robust pathways for students and graduates to advance their careers with Northeastern's programs. Through this partnership, North students and graduates will benefit from qualifying for a 5% scholarship, breaking into tech with programs made for students without tech backgrounds, receiving personalized support throughout their education journeys, attending industry and networking events at the Northeastern Seattle campus before enrolling, and applying to Northeastern with a waived application fee. [Learn more](#).

*** North Participating in WSAC Postsecondary Benefits Promotion Pilot** – North will be participating in the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) 2024-2025 Postsecondary Benefits Promotion Pilot. The pilot is an outreach campaign that will encourage income-eligible students (as determined by the FAFSA/WASFA) to apply for public benefits. Recent research highlights significant basic needs insecurity among postsecondary students, with one in three Washington students experiencing food insecurity. Less than half of these students access public benefits and campus resources that could support them. The pilot aims to identify students likely eligible for public benefits but not currently receiving them and to test targeted outreach strategies to connect these students with necessary resources and support. WSAC will provide technical support and facilitate cross-college engagement on effective outreach practices.

*** Transit & Tunes Celebration on NSC Campus**

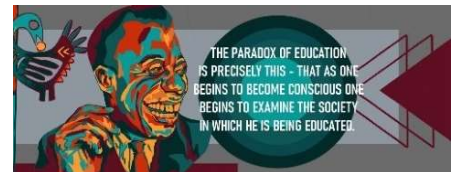
Sept. 6 – King County Metro and Sound Transit are hosting "Transit & Tunes: New School Year Celebration" in the north parking lot of campus from 2 to 7 p.m. this Friday, Sept. 6. The event is free and will feature several activities, including live jazz by Michael Powers, food trucks, beverages, desserts, backpack giveaways, a John Lewis Pedestrian Bridge walk, chalk art contest, face painting and a bouncy house. There will be a live radio broadcast and ORCA card giveaways, as well. The whole family is invited to enjoy the fun and learn about commute rider options.



* **North to Receive Grant to Support First Generation Resource Fair Nov. 6** – North was informed recently that it is receiving a \$1,000 grant in support of its First Generation Resource Fair, scheduled Nov. 6. The grant comes from FirstGenForward and The Council for Opportunity in Education, with funding provided by the Strada Education Foundation and TIAA. The resource fair on Nov. 6 will feature on-campus support and services available for First Generation students at North.

* **Seattle Medium Features NSF Grant to Bolster LSAMP Program** – The renewal of a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the National Science Foundation to bolster the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program at North was recently featured in the Seattle Medium. LSAMP Director Tina Akinyi and North President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas were quoted in the article, focusing on the critical role the LSAMP program and the new funding play in ensuring the success for students of color in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. [Learn more.](#)

* **James Baldwin Mural Makes News** – Gaycities.com, an LGBTQ travel website and mobile app, recently listed North's James Baldwin mural as one of "4 stunning murals of James Baldwin you have to see right now." North's mural was included with murals in New York City, Phoenix and San Francisco, and the website noted the unveiling of the mural in the library building's third floor. Mural Art Course Instructor Kelda Martensen is quoted in the piece, which also highlights the mural's depiction of Baldwin's passport photo, the Istanbul landscape, a portrait of him at his Istanbul apartment, the Eiffel Tower and Harlem brownstones. [Learn more.](#)



* **President's Day Coming Sept. 19** – President's Day at North will be from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, Sept. 19, 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 breakfast will be available beginning at 8:30 a.m. Please RSVP by Sept. 12 to ensure there is the right amount of food and beverages for all attendees. [RSVP here.](#)

* **Save Bus20 Group Seeks Support** – Despite multiple appeals, it appears that King County Metro is planning to proceed with the Bus20 route termination on Sept. 14. The Save Bus20 Group is not giving up, however, and is collecting personal stories of why Metro's alternative bus routes to Bus20 are not workable. The group is also creating a [contact list](#) for sharing future information and actions. In addition, King County Metro is conducting two informational webinars on [Wednesday, Sept. 4, from 6 to 7 p.m.](#), and [Thursday, Sept. 12, from noon to 1 p.m.](#)

* **Light Rail Link to Lynnwood Now Open** – Four new light rail stations opened Aug. 30, serving north King and South Snohomish counties. The new stations include Shoreline South/148th, Shoreline North/185th, Mountlake Terrace and Lynnwood City Center. The extended light rail reach now provides additional commute options for employees and students who live in north of campus. To learn more about how to utilize light rail, including how to obtain an Orca card, please visit the [Parking & Transportation page](#) on North's website.

* **Black Coffee Northwest to Reopen Sept. 16** – With lighter activity on campus between quarters, Black Coffee Northwest will be closed until Monday, Sept. 16. The coffee shop will reopen at that time, and its hours for fall quarter will be Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Friday from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Black Coffee Northwest is currently accepting catering requests with five days' notice. The contact is [Kaitlyn Rich](#).



* **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!](#)

* **Volunteers Needed to Help at New Student Orientation Sept. 18** – North's [New Student Orientation](#) is set for Wednesday, Sept. 18, from 2 to 4:30 p.m. This is our way of welcoming all new students to campus through an in-person orientation. It gives the students an opportunity to connect with campus departments and resources, meet their Areas of Study faculty and staff, take a tour, and build a sense of belonging. A large event like this relies on support from the entire campus community, so if you are interested in volunteering to help, a variety of opportunities are available. Please complete this [one-minute form](#) to express your interest in volunteering. Your help is greatly appreciated!

HOPPING AROUND DISTRICT

* **Reminder about Operating Hours Starting Sept. 3** – Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 3, all Seattle Colleges units and operations are expected to offer in-person service Monday through Thursday during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Fridays, units and operations may, where appropriate, offer virtual services during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., in lieu of in-person services. These hours will be our standard until further notice. The three college presidents and chancellor have agreed upon this districtwide plan. A [Work Schedule and Regular Business Hours webpage](#) has been created for your information and reference. For additional information, please see President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas' June 7 email or the reminder email sent from the North Communications account Aug. 28.

* **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](#).

* **EAP Events and Webinars Every Wednesday** – 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](#).

*** Search Committee Training Sessions Coming** – Human Resources will be conducting regular Search Committee Training Sessions in September and October. All employees are invited as this training is for anyone interested in serving on a search committee in the future. Upcoming training dates are Monday, Sept. 9; Monday, Sept. 30; and Monday, Oct. 14. All sessions will be from 10 to 11 a.m. [Zoom link](#).



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

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)