

# North News Briefs



**OCTOBER 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](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.

## **PONDER THIS**

\* **Emotional Wellness Month** – With our hectic schedules, devices pinging us from every direction and modern life becoming increasingly uncertain, it's more crucial than ever to maintain a sense of calm and balance. Emotional Wellness Month, observed all October, reminds us to disconnect and take a timeout for our brain. "Emotional wellness" refers to our ability to process feelings in a healthy, positive way and manage the stress of everyday life. If you feel stressed or overwhelmed, try a soothing activity like meditation or yoga to slow down and clear your mind. Use Emotional Wellness Month as an opportunity to take charge of your emotional wellness, find the soothing activities that work for you, and most of all, breathe! [Learn more](#).



## **TREE FROG TIDBITS**

\* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in August were **Jesse Caddell**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Whitney Green**, Workforce Education; **Danielle King**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Jarred Sessink**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Cameron Shimmon**, Instruction. *(Please note: September new hires will be shared in a future News Briefs.)*

\* **NSF Tabs North for Two Innovative Projects to Advance STEM Education** – The U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) is investing \$14.5 million in the inaugural set of awards through its [Innovation in Two-Year College in STEM Education \(ITYC\) program](#), and North will play a key role in delivering on that effort. The college is participating in two of the 35 projects awarded by the NSF, which went to institutions in 18 states and the District of Columbia. One project is a summer bridge program led by biology faculty member **Ann Murkowski** (principal investigator) and chemistry faculty member **Dr. Heather Price** (co-principal investigator). The other project is focused on incorporating climate justice and civic engagement in undergraduate STEM led by Dr. Price (co-principal investigator) and Dr. Sonya Doucette (principal investigator) of Bellevue College. This work grew out of an existing grant project Drs. Price and Doucette will complete this month (Enhancing Community College STEM Teaching through Faculty Development). Of note, ITYC is a new program at the NSF developed and led by **Dr. Kalyn Owens**, a chemistry faculty member at North who is currently serving as a rotating program officer at the NSF. [Learn more](#).

\* **‘Unbeatable Diana Ma’ Says Stories Have Always Been in Her – Diana Ma**, professor of English and creative writing at North, where she has taught for more than 25 years, was recently featured in the Seattle Colleges Foundation’s [College Minute newsletter](#). The feature focused on Diana’s story-telling ability, her inspiration and her books. “From my earliest memory, I’ve always had stories in me,” Diana said. “My mind populated with characters, worlds, fantasies; I’d get lost in another world.” Currently on a one-year sabbatical, she has another book, *Rainbow Fair*, which is set for release next April.



\* **North HR Team Fully Staffed and Ready to Help** – North’s Human Resources team is fully staffed and ready to help. The team was introduced in a Sept. 10 email from HR Director **JD Burchfield** and also includes **Barbara Smith**, generalist, and **Elizabeth Al Khuzaim**, business partner. Please use the [Help Desk](#) for submitting most HR requests.

## **RIBBETING NEWS**

\* **Asian & Pacific Islander Center Grand Opening Oct. 1** – The Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institution (AANAPISI) student center has moved and is no longer in College Center 1254 (and no longer called “TARC”). The center has moved into a new space (CC 1360) and has been renamed APIC (Asian & Pacific Islander Center). The main door is next to the old cafeteria, which is now called the World Community Center (near the World Community Garden) on the first floor of the College Center. A grand opening event is planned for Tuesday, Oct. 1, from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and light refreshments will be provided. For more information, please contact [Dawn Cheung](#), grant manager, AANAPISI.

\* **Matika Wilbur Lecture and Book Signing Oct. 16** – The NSC Art Gallery is currently showing the work of Matika Wilbur for its first exhibition of the 2024-25 academic year. Wilbur’s exhibition, *Seeds of Culture: The Portraits and Voices of Native American Women*, features photographs and stories of 27 Native American women and runs through Nov. 1. The gallery is also partnering with the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Community office to host an artist lecture and book signing Wednesday, Oct. 16, from noon to 1:30 p.m. For more details, please see the Sept. 23 email from Amanda Knowles, NSC Art Gallery director.

\* **Political Participation Beyond the Vote Oct. 9** – Voting is incredibly important but there’s so much more that can be done to influence politics and policy whether you are a citizen or not. On Wednesday, Oct. 9, from noon to 1 p.m. in the North auditorium (Library room 1207), you are invited to join Jill Lane, interim dean, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Seattle Central, and members of the Political Science departments across the Seattle Colleges to look at some of the creative, easy, and (mostly) free ways you can participate during this Presidential election cycle and beyond. For information, please contact [Jill](#) or [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services. The event will also be carried on [Zoom](#).

\* **Join Fun & Games Café Oct. 9 and Oct. 23** – Two events are coming that are sure to get you in the mood for Halloween. On Wednesday, Oct. 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. at Black Coffee Northwest, come explore the tarot card as a tool to help guide your intentions and think about your future! Then, on Wednesday, Oct. 23, from 2 to 3 p.m. in the TRiO Lounge, come celebrate the autumn season and prepare for trick or treating by watching a slightly spooky

film. For details on these events, please contact [Jax Mello](#), [Emiko Minatoya-Shields](#), [Melissa Allen](#) or [Willa Sweeney](#).

\* **New Voters Project Coming to the Grove Oct. 16** – On Wednesday, Oct. 16, the Library & Learning Support Division is bringing the New Voters Project, organized by WashPIRG students, to the Grove for a nonpartisan voter registration drive. If you are a faculty member who would like to request one of their volunteers speak about voting for two to three minutes at the beginning of your class, please complete [this form](#). For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services.

\* **Development Day Activity Proposals Due Oct. 14** – Development Day is set for Monday, Oct. 28. This fall, the Teaching and Learning Center will be returning to its traditional process of soliciting proposals for afternoon events. If you have a workshop, presentation, lesson or community activity that you would like to share with the campus on Development Day, please submit [this form](#) by Monday, Oct. 14. Applicants will know their status by Wednesday, Oct. 16.

\* **Pre-Election Political History Table Talk Set for Oct. 30** – In 2016 and 2020, North hosted a series of table talks with faculty from the political science departments. For 2024, the talks have expanded to include faculty and participants from all three Seattle Colleges campuses. Please join the discussion about the upcoming elections. This will largely be a Q&A hour for participants to ask questions about historical context and more. The event will be Wednesday, Oct. 30, from noon to 1 p.m., in the Student Learning Center Seminar Room (HSSR 1637A). For details, please contact [Jill Lane](#) or [Jax Mello](#).

\* **Passion and Purpose Leadership Academy Launched** – North's Teaching and Learning Center recently launched a Passion and Purpose Leadership Academy (PPLA) for present and future leaders at NSC. PPLA is a nine-week series of in-person workshops that is open to all employee groups. The first cohort convenes in October where they will begin attending workshops. The workshops will aim to strengthen each leader's ability to apply an equity, diversity and inclusion lens to their work, review and use data to make informed decisions, build and mentor collaborative teams, and other valuable takeaways. Participants will also receive a one-on-one coaching session on Clifton Strengths Based Leadership. For more information, please contact [Dr. Dan Tarker](#), dean, Library and Learning Support Services.

\* **Innovation Grant Augments ECE Programs at North** – An Early Educator Investment Collaborative award in 2021 is paying big dividends at North. As this [video](#) attests, the grant has augmented the associate and bachelor's degree Early Childhood Education (ECE) programs at North by offering certificates and degrees in Spanish, Arabic, Somali and Mandarin languages. The work focuses on anti-bias education, piloting community-based cohorts for ECE providers across the state, and creating supported education pathways for the workforce, from entry level through graduate school. The grant has supported the [Noris E. Daniel fellowship](#) and partnerships with the Department of Youth and Families. For more background, please see this [release](#).



**\* NSC Receives Additional Funding from Johnson Controls** – North received a \$100,000 grant renewal, for a total award of \$300,000, as part of the Johnson Controls Community College Partnership Program. This funding enhances on-campus training and educational opportunities for future leaders in the HVAC, digital, fire and security industries. NSC, alongside Johnson Controls, remains committed to addressing the skilled trades gap through strategic investments to equip the future skilled trades workforce and foster strong communities. With last year's funding, NSC supported students studying electronics with scholarships, embedded classroom and lab assistants to support student learning, and dedicated student support services. The renewed funding will continue to support scholarships, classroom support and student support services, while also opening doors for new initiatives and projects. [Learn more](#).



**\* Fall 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](#). These are available from the cashier and require a completed [Quarterly Transportation Form](#). For more information, please review the Sept. 24 email from the North Commute account and Casey Saunders, NSC transportation coordinator.

**\* Food Trucks Back on Campus** – North's Campus Operations Department recently announced that food trucks will be back on Tuesdays during fall quarter. One change to note this year is the trucks will be located on the west side of campus next to the Library. The food trucks will operate from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays. See the [current schedule](#).

### **HOPPING AROUND DISTRICT**

**\* Volunteers Needed for ACCT Congress Oct. 23-26** – Seattle will host the annual [Association of Community College Trustees Leadership Congress](#) Oct. 23-26, and Seattle Colleges is working with the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) and Bellevue College colleagues on hosting this event. Volunteers are needed who want to help with wayfinding and other event support functions. ACCT comes with its own staff, but volunteers are requested to help attendees. Please read the Sept. 6 email from Chancellor Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap for more information. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [Vanessa Johnson](#), senior executive assistant, Chancellor's Office.

**\* Upcoming Safety Training Sessions** – The district's Environmental Health and Safety team is offering training sessions on [bloodborne pathogens](#) (Oct. 2, Oct. 10 and Oct. 24) and on [hazardous communications](#) (Oct. 1 and Oct. 29). For details, please refer to the Sept. 23 email from Wesley Wofford, associate director, Environmental Health and Safety.

**\* Mindful Meditation Zoom Sessions** – Through Dec. 2, the Mindful Meditation team will offer free Zoom sessions to all current students and staff. These sessions are on Mondays from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. The meeting room URL is <https://tinyurl.com/yyx4eh9n>, the password is Bliss! and the meeting ID is 994 361 6626.



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