

North News Briefs



NOVEMBER 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 Scholarship Month** – Financing a college education in America has become a seriously stressful endeavor. Student loans, while convenient now, can result in crushing debt later. That's why the National Scholarship Providers Association sponsors National Scholarship Month each November. It encourages students to concentrate on securing funds they'll never need to pay back. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in September and October were **Miles Allen**, Workforce Instruction; **Nevaeh Beachem**, College Access Partnerships; **Alan Beem**, Student Learning Center; **Joseph Bernstein**, Student Learning Center; **Niruta Bhandari**, Student Leadership; **AJ Bishop-Andrews**, Workforce Instruction; **Jesse Caddell**, Workforce Instruction; **Jessica Campbell**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Eric Cashman**, Continuing Education; **Ramon Cazarez**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Catherine Chapman**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Michael Chen**, Student Services; **Sarah Cooley**, Student Success Services; **Jared Cortese**, Continuing Education; **Taeler-Linn Crutchfield**, Wellness Center; **Savinay Dangi**, Workforce Instruction; **Jared Darlington**, Student Learning Center; **Sellyna Ehlers**, Wellness Center; **Erika Faith**, Math/Science; **Katherine Yuko Fry**, Math & Science; **Michael Gilbert**, Student Learning Center; **Julie Graber**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Kyle Glover**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Mercy Guirnalda**, Workforce Education; **Senay Hagos**, College Access Partnerships; **Sharon Hailemariam**, Wellness Center; **Erin Hartiens**, College Access Partnerships; **Brian Hatch**, Workforce Instruction; **Margaret Keu**, Math/Science; **Inseo Kim**, Library, TLC & SMC; **Benjamin Leipzig**, Math/Science; **Sophia Mann**, Student Leadership; **Nicholas Miller**, Instruction; **Shanna Miller**, Workforce Instruction; **Alyson Mocarski**, Workforce Instruction; **Sasha Anne Mocke**, Workforce Instruction; **Joe Munden**, Workforce Instruction; **Roselyn Munoz**, Campus Operations; **Michael Murphy**, Workforce Instruction; **Ivan Nicholas**, College Access Partnerships; **Miguel Ortiz**, Financial Aid & Veteran Affairs; **Ruby Otto**, College Access Partnerships; **Kiera Peters**, Wellness Center; **Andrea Peterson**, Student Services; **HaThiVan (Ha) Pham**, Student Leadership; **Duy Khiem (Bush) Phan**, College Access Partnerships; **Adalee Pino**, Student Leadership;

Sumnima Rai, Student Leadership; **Taylor Rainwater-Brown**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Kassandra Rhyne**, Library, TLC & SMC; **Rhandell Saya**, College Access Partnerships; **Liz Shepherd**, Math/Science; **Adrian Sheppard**, Workforce Instruction; **Keiffer Craig Tan**; Instruction; **Laura Tyler**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Robert Uehlin**, Math & Science; **Miski Ugas**, Workforce Education; **Parys Unangst**, Instruction; **Troy Washington**, Student Success Services; **Kahlee Webster**, Wellness Center; and **Mendoza Yenifher**, Workforce Instruction.

* **Profile: Rayne Renney** – When he was very young, Rayne Renney had to figure out how to manage the family finances. So you could have predicted what he does now: helping students figure out how to complete their accounting and business courses. Rayne is a tutor at North's Accounting and Business Learning Center. He is also a student in accounting at North. His story is an inspirational one, and Rayne has become well-known and a leader. His speech during this year's President's Day was unforgettable to anyone who attended. To learn more about Rayne's story, please read [From Alaska back woods to tutoring leadership](#).

* **Welcoming New Director of Financial Aid** – Welcome to Miguel Ortiz, who joined North on Oct. 1 as the new director of Financial Aid. He comes to us from Washington State University, where he served as assistant director of Operations and Application Processing in the Financial Aid office. Miguel brings a wealth of experience to North, including expertise in processing Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP), managing the loans process, ensuring quality control for Return to Title IV (R2T4) funds and assisting with both state and federal reporting. For more, please see the Oct. 1 email from Dr. Andre Davis, dean, Student Success and Services.

* **New LSAMP Navigator Joins North** – On Oct. 7, the Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP) program welcomed Katherine Yuko Fry as its new navigator. Katherine's role will entail supporting historically underrepresented students in STEM programs by empowering them to successfully navigate their degrees; helping procure experiential learning opportunities; connecting them to academic, career and life resources; and creating a culture of safety and community. To learn more about Katherine, please see the Oct. 7 email from Alissa Agnello, interim dean, Math and Science.

* **Permanent Director of Facilities Named** – Congratulations to Michael Saunders, who has accepted the permanent director of Facilities position at North. Michael has been serving in the role on an interim basis for the past two and a half years, and has been at North for 14 years. He has served in a variety of roles during that time, including temporary hourly, maintenance mechanic 1, maintenance mechanic 2, maintenance lead, and maintenance and ground supervisor. For more, please see the Oct. 7 email from Kristen Burton, executive director, Campus Operations.

* **New Running Start Student Success Specialist at North** – Congratulations to Adriana Rocha, who accepted the Running Start student success specialist at North Oct. 7. Adriana has served as a financial aid specialist at North for the past two years and previously worked as a graduation coach with middle and high school students. She was selected from a

competitive pool of more than 80 applicants. To learn more, please see the Oct. 9 email from Katy Foster, manager, Running Start.

*** North International Accounting Instructor Appointed to NAACP Position** – Johnnie Mobley, instructor, International Accounting, was recently appointed treasurer of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Pacific Northwest Region. Congratulations, Johnnie!

RIBBETING NEWS

*** NSC Federal Title III Grant Closes on High Note** – The North Seattle College Title III grant from the Department of Education concluded on Sept. 30, after six transformative years. The grant provided one-time funding with the goal of institutionalizing key initiatives by the end of its term. NSC successfully closed equity gaps in student retention and completion; built a new computer lab and the Equity and Welcome Center; launched over 60 100-Day faculty and student projects; identified and scaled up the First Year Experience course (HDC 101- Introduction to College Success); eliminated high stakes testing and implemented no cost, Directed Self-Placement for math and English; updated the assigned advising model and developed program maps for pathways; introduced data dashboards and co-requisite math courses, and created open education resource question banks in the pre-calculus math pathway and new student orientation.

*** Unity Forest Installed at North** – NSC partnered with National Urban Forest to create a unity forest, which was planted on the south end of North’s campus Oct. 19. NSC grounds hold more than 11 acres of wetlands that are home to a variety of animal species, and the addition of this forest with native species creates a distinct, self-sustaining ecosystem and provides habitat for species like the Pacific Tree Frog, further enriching the biodiversity on campus. With this forest, the site will offer a space of relaxation and reflection for the North community. [Learn more.](#)



*** NSC Recognized for Inclusive Excellence and ‘Raising the Bar’** – North is one of nine colleges in Washington state eligible to apply for a new U.S. Department of Education (DOE) award program recognizing inclusive excellence. The DOE used publicly available data to measure performance on key indicators related to equitable access, success and post-college outcomes for students of color and low-income students at public and nonprofit institutions across the country. The colleges now have a chance to participate in the next phase of the selection process for the department’s Postsecondary Success Recognition program. The program is part of the Biden administration’s Raise the Bar initiative, which aims to increase postsecondary completion rates, close completion rates and ensure all students earn valuable credentials. The initiative seeks to honor higher education institutions based on how well they prepare graduates for the workforce and fulfilling lives, rather than exclusivity.

* **North Student Food Pantry Giving Campaign** – As originally communicated to all staff via email Oct. 14, North is launching a student food pantry to help our students who are experiencing food insecurity. Funds collected will be spent on food for our students. North has also received a grant from student leadership, but those funds can only supplement the food pantry's needs, and not be a primary source of support. For more information, please contact [Maura Nakamichi](#) or [Jeanette Miller](#).

* **Golden Star Employee of the Quarter Nominations Open** – Nominations are still open for the Fall 2024 Golden Star Employee of the Quarter. The recipient of the honor exemplifies kindness, collaboration, integrity, creativity and a “going-the-extra-mile” attitude. The awardee will receive a Golden Star pin presented by President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, a certificate award of appreciation, college-wide recognition and a gift from the STARS committee. Any employee – classified, faculty, hourly, exempt, administrator – is eligible to nominate or be nominated. The deadline to submit nominations is Friday, Nov. 15. [Learn more](#).

* **Fun & Games Café Events Nov. 6 and Nov. 20** – The North library has a variety of games, such as Jenga, Apples to Apples and Ticket to Ride available for check out. Come explore, play and borrow the library's collection of board games, *Wednesday, Nov. 6, from 2 to 3 p.m.* on the main floor. Then, on *Wednesday, Nov. 20, from 2 to 3 p.m.*, in the World Community Center, the Fun & Games Café will partner with AANAPISI to bring you Dogs Rock!, a double-dose of de-stressing activities: rock painting and service-dog petting. For more details, please contact [Jax Mello](#), [Emiko Minatoya-Shields](#), [Melissa Allen](#) or [Willa Sweeney](#).

* **First Gen Day Event Nov. 13** – On Wednesday, Nov. 13, North will host a Resource Fair and Celebration in the Grove for all first-generation students. Thirty-seven faculty and staff will be sporting T-shirts that say, “I'm a First Generation Student,” and there will be a lunchtime panel discussing tips and tricks for thriving as a first-generation student. There will also be Headshots and Handshakes happening to help students prepare for their professional journey. The Resource Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and the panel discussion will take place from noon to 1 p.m. All are welcome.

* **Cozy Reading Party Nov. 13 in Library** – Everyone is invited to hang out and read together at the Cozy Reading Party, Wednesday Nov. 13, from 2 to 4 p.m. on the top floor of the library. Bring your own book or borrow one from the library and cozy up with something warm to drink. A hot drinks bar with cocoa (and marshmallows), coffee, tea and apple cider will be available. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#).

* **NSC Art and Craft Sale Coming Nov. 21** – The NSC Art & Craft Sale is set for Thursday, Nov. 21, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., in the College Center building's main level near Black Coffee Northwest. There is no cost to attend and everyone is invited.

* **City Grants \$50K for North as Part of Decarbonization Work** – The City of Seattle's Office of Sustainability & Environment announced Oct. 23 that North is receiving one of eight grants as part of the city's decarbonization efforts. The grants are designed to help building owners install decarbonization retrofits, such as replacing fossil fuel gas furnaces with electric heat pumps or conduct engineering and technical analyses head of future Building Emissions

Performance Standard (BEPS) target deadlines. North's grant is in the amount of \$50,000, which will be used for an engineering analysis of the campus heating system. [Learn more.](#)

* **News Story on Student Housing Features North Specialist** – An article about student housing costs on Nerdwallet.com, which has been picked up by several media outlets across the country, featured North student housing resource specialist Shannon Thomas. Shannon explained that even though North doesn't offer robust housing resources, the college helps students by making connections with agencies and programs throughout the area. He also shared how North can assist students in emergency situations and help them find solutions, even if they are short-term. [Learn more.](#)

* **Fire Drills Planned for Opportunity Center/HSSR and Library** – Two fire drills are currently scheduled for 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 26, and 2 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 27. The Nov. 26 (10 a.m.) drill will be specifically for the Opportunity Center and Health Sciences and Student Resources (HSSR) buildings, while the Nov. 27 (2 p.m.) drill will be confined to the Library building. Since these do not affect the entire campus, the RAVE emergency alert system will not be used. All students, faculty, staff and visitors in the affected buildings are asked to please follow evacuation procedures during the drills.



* **NSC Employee Discount for Continuing Ed Classes** – North's Continuing Education team is offering a 10% discount on all classes for current and former NSC staff members only. This is valid until March 26, 2025. Simply visit learnatnorth.org and choose your classes. Use the discount code of NSC202410% at checkout.

HOPPING AROUND DISTRICT

* **Post-election Day Holding Space** – North faculty and staff are invited to join in community to de-stress and talk about the elections. Continuing in the Seattle Colleges tradition, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Community (EDIC) and Political Science will host a holding space on the day after the election, Wednesday, Nov. 6, from noon to 1 p.m. via [Zoom](#). Share your fears, happiness and/or confusion in a safe and welcoming space.

* **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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