

North News Briefs



JANUARY 2025

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 Mentoring Month** – As we start the new year, January is National Mentoring Month, celebrated annually to recognize the importance of mentoring relationships and to encourage others to become mentors. Mentoring can have many benefits for both the mentor and mentee, including improving confidence, developing communication skills, exposing participants to new experiences, improving goal-setting, improving listening skills and developing organizational skills. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** New hires at North in December were **Peter Brummel**, Workforce Instruction; **Sydney Carroll**, Continuing Education; **Olivia Clemens**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Brian Coon**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Michelle Cruver**, Student Services; **Maricela Flores**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Anne Forester**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Thomas George**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Haylan Gilbert**, Student Success Services; **Kyrsha Goodwin**, Student Success Services; **Sai Guo**, Campus Operations; **Olivia Hill**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **John Lee**, Workforce Instruction; **Tamariya Smith**, Student Services; **Maraki Tekeste**, Enrollment Services and Outreach; **Hong-An Truong**, Business Operations; and **Mark Yosinao**, Campus Operations.

* **Mighty Hercules Excels at North** – North student Callan Hercules was recently featured in the Seattle Colleges Foundation's newsletter, *The College Minute*. Callan is in North's Bachelor of Science in Computer Science program and is on track to graduate in June. He is one of the select few worldwide with special editing privileges on Wikipedia who are known as extended confirmed editors. [Learn more.](#)

* **Four Named Excellence Award Winners by League for Innovation** – Congratulations to four North faculty members on being named winners of the [League for Innovation Excellence Award](#). This year's winners are **Angel Kim** (Early Child Care and Education), **Shireen Deboo** (Library), **Diana Ma** (English and Humanities) and **Adrienne Lugg** (Basic and Transitional Studies). All have shown an incredible commitment to North's students throughout their careers. The annual League for Innovation Excellence Award is presented each year "recognizing outstanding faculty, staff and leaders in the community college field who have

made a significant difference in the lives of students and in the communities their colleges serve.”

* **New ESL Intake Coordinator in Basic & Transitional Studies** – North welcomed **Maricela Flores** to Basic & Transitional Studies (BTS) as its new English as a Second Language (ESL) intake coordinator on Dec. 2. She began taking ESL classes at North in 2000 and received a high school diploma at North in 2018 through the High School+ program. Maricela then joined BTS as an hourly employee and has been supporting new students with the ESL intake process, working as a Spanish translator and helping in countless other ways.

* **New Program Specialist Joins Launch Pad** – A new program specialist joined the Launch Pad at North in December. **Kyrsha Goodwin**, originally from Cleveland, is transitioning to North from Shoreline Community College. She brings a wealth of experience in higher education, having started her journey as a TRiO success coach at Cleveland State University, where she was also a TRiO student herself. This experience sparked her passion for student support services, a path she continues to embrace.

* **Permanent Dean of BTS Named** – **Anne Forester** has accepted the offer to be permanent dean of the Basic and Transitional Studies division at North. Many Tree Frogs know Anne from her time not only at North as the recent interim dean, but also during her time as a faculty and administrator with the Intensive English program, as well as efforts in the International/Global Initiatives.

* **North President Invited to Select Aspen Institute Program** – North President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas was invited to be part of a substantial new investment in the future of higher education as part of the inaugural cohort of 20 Aspen-Kern Fellows for Leadership and Character in Higher Education. The program is fully funded by the Kern Family Foundation and builds on 785 years of cohort-based, humanistically informed leadership development at the Aspen Institute. [Learn more.](#)

RIBBETING NEWS

* **NSC Recognized for Inclusive Excellence and ‘Raising the Bar’** – As reported in November, North was one of nine colleges in Washington state (and just 200 in the nation) eligible to apply for a new U.S. Department of Education (DOE) award program recognizing inclusive excellence. While North’s application was not selected as one of final 10, the college’s story was shared on the Northwest Commission on Colleges and Universities *Beacon* newsletter in an article authored by Dr. Rachel Solemsaas titled, [Raising the Bar to Transform Education: North Seattle College’s Mission to Promote Equity and Opportunity for All.](#)



* **STEM Research Fair Sees High Attendance** – The University of Washington STEM Research Fair was held at North during fall quarter, where 189 students from eight different colleges attended. Attendees consisted of 51% first-generation students, 83% in their first or second year of college, and more than 50% were from demographics that are historically underrepresented in STEM, while 74% want to transfer to UW. Providing opportunities like

these for students is an important piece of their academic journey, as historically underrepresented STEM college students who participate in undergraduate research experiences are 17.4% more likely to persist to graduation. The UW STEM Fair was put together in collaboration between NSC and the UW Office of Undergraduate Research. NSC graduate Deserée Lai is credited with developing the idea of holding a STEM Research Fair at NSC.

*** New Agreement with Firefighters Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee** – North has entered into a new agreement to deliver related supplemental instruction for the Washington State Firefighters (WSFF) Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee (JATC). WSFF JATC apprentices will take related supplemental instruction coursework through available Fire Science courses taught at North. South Seattle College’s Georgetown campus works in partnership with North and has been integral in creating the contract and providing operational support for the program.



*** Behind the Scenes of a High-Rise Masterpiece with NSC Real Estate Club** – North’s Real Estate Club recently took an exclusive tour of a stunning high-rise apartment building, and it was nothing short of incredible. This hands-on experience gave students a 360-degree view of what makes a property thrive – from the lobby to the penthouse. Opportunities like these, combined with the education they receive at North, prepare students for success in one of today’s most dynamic industries. [Learn more.](#)

*** Change of Plans Leads North Grad to Property Management, Life in USA** – Originally from Denmark, Camilla Pedersen came to the United States in 2016 with no plans to stay. Then, she met her future husband and they decided to build their lives in this country. Camilla, who is passionate about personal growth, learning and finding new opportunities to challenge herself, knew she needed a college degree to launch her career because her Danish diploma was not widely recognized in the U.S. She chose North because it was the first one she connected with while here on a J1 visa. Then, an appointment with North’s counseling service helped guide her to the Bachelor of Applied Science in Residential and Commercial Property Management program. [Learn more.](#)

*** See What’s HOPpening on NSC Campus Calendar** – A total of 107 votes were cast and a clear winner emerged in the campus-wide contest to rename North’s master calendar. Congratulations to Molly Brown, who submitted “NSC Campus Calendar,” which received the most votes. Coming in second place was Melissa Grinley, who suggested “What’s HOPpening!” and, in third, was Julie Lyderson for “North Events Calendar.” To add the NSC Campus Calendar to your Outlook, follow these [instructions.](#)

*** Points of Pride Featured on Seattle Colleges Site** – In case you missed it, two North items were recently in the spotlight as “points of pride” on the Seattle Colleges website. A [video](#) featuring Tina Akinyi, director, Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (LSAMP), that focuses on how LSAMP supports diversity in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) was highlighted, as well as the [recent victory](#) by Associate of Business students in the

Russell Investments International Case Competition at the University of Washington Foster School of Business. [Learn more.](#)

LILY PAD HAPPENINGS

* **Greeters Wanted for Jan. 6 and Jan. 7** – Faculty and staff who are interested can sign up to be a student greeter on the first two days of winter quarter by contacting [Jeanette Miller](#). Typically, this means helping students with directions and answering basic questions about things like parking, waitlists, tutoring and computer labs. The greeter table is supplied with resources including division information, forms, tutoring hours, Wellness Center schedules and candy!

* **Black Coffee Northwest Reopens Jan. 6** – Black Coffee Northwest’s location on the first floor of the College Center building will reopen Monday, Jan. 6. The coffee shop has been closed for the holidays.

* **North Hosting 46th Legislative District Community Town Hall Jan. 9** – On Thursday, Jan. 9, our district’s three state legislators — Sen. Javier Valdez, Rep. Darya Farivar and Rep. Gerry Pollet — will conduct an in-person town hall at North’s library auditorium from 6 to 8 p.m. Discussion will be focused on what’s most important to you and your family as the legislators prepare for the upcoming session in Olympia.

* **Winter Student Engagement Fair Jan. 15** – The Winter Student Engagement Fair (formerly the Club & Resource Fair) will be Wednesday, Jan. 15, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Grove. This is a booth-style fair for students to engage with clubs, affinity groups and resources on campus. Please fill out the [Winter Student Engagement Fair sign-up form](#) by Wednesday, Jan. 8, to reserve your table.

* **Community Health Fair Jan. 22** – The Roy Flores Wellness Center is hosting a community health fair Wednesday, Jan. 22. The event will be a place to obtain small health assessments, learn about what health resources are available at North and in the nearby community. If you know of any community partners who will be willing to table or provide a service – or if you would like to table and bring light to available health services – please contact [Marle Ethelbah](#).



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