

North News Briefs



FEBRUARY 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

* **Black History Month** – February is Black History Month and this year's theme is African Americans and Labor, which focuses on the various and profound ways that work and working of all kinds – free and unfree, skilled and unskilled, vocational and voluntary – intersects with the collective experiences of Black people. Indeed, work is at the very center of much of Black history and culture. Be it the traditional agricultural labor of enslaved Africans that fed Low Country colonies, debates among Black educators on the importance of vocational training, self-help strategies and entrepreneurship in Black communities, or organized labor's role in fighting both economic and social injustice, Black people's work has been transformational throughout the U.S., Africa and the Diaspora. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in January were **Emily Dalgo**, Continuing Education; **Matthew Jacobson**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Alysen Laakso**, Student Services; and **My Le**, Cashier.

* **From Chaos to Community: Young Man's Mission to Empower Others** – If you haven't checked out North's News Center recently, you are missing out on some great student 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 Matias Saenz, documenting his impressive accomplishments as a 21-year-old who has faced a lot of challenges and wants to use his experiences to help others change their lives for the better. [Learn more.](#)

* **Good News About Two Faculty Members** – Congratulations to Stephanie Solomon, Basic and Transitional Studies, who is the newest tenured faculty member at North. Stephanie's tenure recommendation was approved by the Board of Trustees Jan. 16. Stephanie is one of the few who have been through both the Core process and the Tenure process. And welcome to the newest full-time faculty member at North, Adewale Adeolu. Adewale is in the Math Department and he has hit the ground running with classes and department work.

* **A Tutor Excited About Science and Life** – Baker, a tutor at North’s Biology and Chemistry Tutoring Center, previously worked as “a pastry chef, a cake decorator, a clown, a cashier, a singer, a barista, a camp counselor, an Amazon employee, a certified nurse’s assistant,” and all of it has helped them when providing tutoring help for students. [Learn more.](#)

* **‘Parenting Takes a Village’ Podcast** – North Parent Education faculty member Tania Hino hosts a podcast called “Parenting Takes a Village: North Seattle College and You,” where she invites guests to discuss topics and tools to help parents, teachers and caregivers. Guests from the NSC cooperative preschool community include both parent educators with expertise in specific areas and co-op parents themselves sharing their wisdom and experiences. [Listen here.](#)

* **English Faculty Member Publishes New Book and Rolls out Workshops** – Diana Ma, English faculty member, published a new book titled, “Anti-Oppressive Universal Design for Teachers: Building Equitable Classrooms.” The new book, which comes out in June, provides a student-centered, culturally responsive blueprint for building sustainable and just educational practices. Ma presents a framework that takes the principles of equity and humanizing pedagogy from anti-oppressive theories and the principles of multiplicity and flexible design from Universal Design Learning (UDL). In addition to the new book, Ma is also offering workshops and consultations on an Anti-oppressive Universal Design framework to schools and other educational institutions.

* **Acting Director Named for Access, Community and Opportunity** – Jill Lane, who has more than 20 years of experience at North, including serving as acting president in 2023, was recently named acting director of Access, Community and Opportunity. She took over the role from Julius Lloyd, who will continue supporting North as part of the ACO/Project Baldwin team.

* **New Program Manager for Advancement and Student Development** – Alysen Laakso has joined the Student Services team as its new program manager, Advancement and Student Development. Alysen joined North from Lake Washington Institute of Technology. She has worked for several colleges in Washington and brings a wealth of experience and a passion for supporting student success through project and scholarship management.

* **Director of College Access Partnership Named** – Michelle Cruver, a social impact leader focused on educational equity initiatives, has been named as the new director of College Access Partnerships at North. She brings more than 15 years of designing, launching and facilitating initiatives for educational attainment. Michelle has previously worked at Shoreline Community College, UW Seattle-Bothell and Seattle University.

RIBBETING NEWS

* **On-campus Child Care at North** – Did you know North offers on-campus child care for children between the ages of 18 months and 5-plus years? North’s Child Care Center is a service provided for our community, with enrollment priority given first to students, then employees and last, community members. The center offers a safe and nurturing environment where children will have a positive



experience and participate in age-appropriate learning experiences. For more information, please contact [Rose Buchanan](#), associate director, Student Leadership, or visit the [center's webpage](#).

* **Community Collaboration: Revitalizing Parent Education Playground** – North is embarking on an exciting project to revitalize the playground for its Parent Education Program. Faculty, deans and the district's Workforce Office recently joined forces to explore fundraising strategies for this important initiative. The aim is to enhance the outdoor learning and play environment for young children, aligning with the program's mission to support early childhood development and parental engagement. [Learn more](#).

* **High-End Swiss Brand Visits Watch Technology** – Audemars Piguet (AP), a Swiss luxury watch company, recently visited the Watch Technology program at North. AP heads of after-sales service met with students to introduce the brand and discuss service center operations. AP currently employs two recent North Seattle College graduates and is eager to hire more watchmakers over the upcoming years. Opportunities for further partnership are being explored.

* **Roy Flores Wellness Center Engagement on Rise** – The Roy Flores Wellness Center (RFWC) has experienced impressive growth since reopening in fall 2022. The center had a total of 5,197 check-ins in fall quarter 2024, which marks a 39% increase from fall quarter 2023 and a 172% increase from fall quarter 2022 — more check-ins than the entire 2022-2023 academic year. More employees are taking advantage of the center with employee memberships increasing by 47% from fall quarter 2023. In February, RFWC will be launching its first campus-wide Wellness Challenge for students, employees, and RFWC members to encourage healthy habits and promote well-being (see related item later in this News Briefs).

* **Countenance: Contemporary Portraiture at Art Gallery** – Celebrating the diverse and evolving tradition of portraiture and exploring the many ways we capture and represent identity, presence and connection, *Countenance: Contemporary Portraiture* is now showing in the NSC Art Gallery through March 7. The exhibition features the work of 10 practicing artists from around the country. Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. [Learn more](#).



* **Food Trucks on Campus** – A food truck will be available most Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the west side of campus near the library. For the current food truck schedule, menus, pricing and online ordering, visit: [Washington State Food Truck Association](#).

* **Midday Movie Meetups on Wednesdays** – You are invited to join faculty, staff and students for short, lunchtime film screenings followed by informal discussion. Midday Movie Meetups, hosted by Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, are scheduled every Wednesday in the Grove Seminar Room beginning at noon. Light refreshments are provided. [Learn more](#).

* **Transfer Advising and Application Help Pop-ups** – Please help spread the word among our students that there will be help available from transfer advisors and Page One Writing Center tutors from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Monday, Feb. 3; Thursday, Feb. 6; Monday, Feb. 10; and Thursday, Feb. 20, at various locations on campus. [See calendar](#).

* **Wellness Challenge Begins Feb. 3** – The 2025 NSC Wellness Challenge begins Monday, Feb. 3. In this six-week challenge, you will work together in teams of three people to engage in as many healthy behaviors as possible. Each healthy behavior is assigned a point value and you will track your team's points and submit them each week. The challenge runs until Monday, March 17, and the team with the most points will be rewarded with amazing prizes, including free memberships to the Roy Flores Wellness Center, swag and bragging rights, of course. [Learn more and sign up](#).



* **Business Transfer and Career Fair** – On Wednesday, Feb. 12, from noon to 3 p.m., in the Grove, students can connect with university and North programs in the business and accounting fields. The [Transfer Calendar](#) provides updates on which universities and employers will attend.

* **Spring Registration Not Far Away** – Spring Quarter registration begins Tuesday, Feb. 18 for returning students and Tuesday, Feb. 25, for new students. See the [Enrollment Calendar](#) for these and other important enrollment dates to share with your students.

* **Cozy Reading Party Feb. 19** – Back by popular demand! The library welcomes everyone to hang out and read together at its Cozy Reading Party, Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 2 to 4 p.m., in the top floor of the library. Bring your own book or borrow one at the library, then cozy up with something warm to drink. There will be a hot drinks bar with cocoa (and marshmallows!), coffee, tea and apple cider. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services.

* **Golden STAR Employee of the Quarter Nominations Open** – Nominations are now open for North's Golden STAR Employee of the Quarter. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions and hard work of our colleagues. Any employee can nominate any other employee who they believe has gone above and beyond in their role. The nomination deadline is Friday, Feb. 28. [Learn more](#).

* **Two Continuing Education Student Concerts Coming in March** – Mark your calendars for two winter quarter CE student concerts: Wednesday, March 19, at 8 p.m., the jazz ensemble plays in the library auditorium (directed by Fred Radke); and Sunday, March 23, at 2 p.m., there will be a vocal performance accompanied by the jazz ensemble in the library auditorium (directed by Gina Funes and Fred Radke). Admission is free to both concerts.

LILY PAD HAPPENINGS

* **Get Ready for Discover Seattle Colleges 2025** – Mark your calendars and save the dates for the 2025 Discover Seattle Colleges events. For several years now, Discover Seattle

Colleges events have provided prospective students with firsthand information and guidance on opportunities at the three district colleges, including North Seattle College. Online events will occur March 3-6 and North's open house will be Thursday, March 13, from 3:30 to 6:30 p.m., in the Grove. Much more information will be shared in the weeks ahead, so bookmark the [Discover Seattle Colleges web page](#), which will be updated regularly.

* **Upcoming Safety Training Dates Set** – Bloodborne Pathogen and Hazardous Communication safety trainings for any interested Seattle Colleges employees have been set for February. [Bloodborne Pathogen trainings](#) are at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 4, and 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 18, and [Hazardous Communications training](#) is available on Wednesday, Feb. 12 at 2:30 p.m. In addition, there is a [Hazardous Waste Designation training](#) available on Monday, Feb. 24, at 8 a.m. If you have any questions, please contact Wes Wofford, associate director, Environmental Health and Safety, Seattle Colleges, (206) 934-5522.

* **Scholarship Season is Here** – Scholarship season is upon us and your help is needed in getting the word out to our students and reviewing applications. The



Seattle Colleges Foundation is now accepting applications for 2025-26 scholarships. The application deadline is Tuesday, March 18, at midnight. Scholarships range from \$100 to \$5,000. Last year, more than 500 students were awarded scholarships, totaling more than \$2 million. All current and prospective Seattle Colleges students are eligible, including DACA, undocumented, and international students, and students with a prior degree. [Learn more.](#)

* **Commencement Date Set for June 20 at UW** – Commencement for the three Seattle Colleges (North, Central and South) will be Friday, June 20, at the University of Washington's Alaska Airlines Arena. (T-Mobile Park is not available this year.) The new location requires two sessions: one in the late afternoon and another in the early evening. More details will be shared at a later date, but if you want a taste of what's in store for 2025, watch the Commencement 2024 [highlight video](#).



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