

North News Briefs



APRIL 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

* **April is National Garden Month** – Back in the 1980s, the National Garden Bureau worked with 23 co-sponsoring national horticultural organizations to legislate National Garden Week and, in 1986, President Reagan signed the proclamation. In 2002, the National Gardening Association resolved to extend the celebration to encompass the entire month of April. All gardeners know the innumerable benefits that gardening brings to people and their communities. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in March were **Maria Arteaga Cuevas**, Library; **Danielle Dillon**, Library, Teaching and Learning Center, and Student Media Center; **Lauren Douglas**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Maggie Frasier**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Angela Fujihara**, Student Learning Center; **Jharman Lightner**, Workforce Instruction; **Brian Martin**, Campus Security; **Carlotta Mizzotti**, Student Services; **August Purkey**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Julia Shpigelman**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; and **Zoe Solaris**, Library, TLC and SMC.

* **Congratulations to Newly Tenured Faculty** – The Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees last month approved two North faculty members for tenure. A big congratulations to **Julia Heineccius**, Art, and **Eric Lloyd**, Computer Science.

* **North Student Named to All-USA Academic Team** – North student **Matias Saenz** has been selected as one of 20 college students (out of 2,100 nominees) for the prestigious 2025 All-USA Academic Team. Matias, who is pursuing impact entrepreneurship, will receive a \$5,000 scholarship. He recently was selected as president of North's Phi Theta Kappa chapter, Alpha Epsilon Omega. [Learn more.](#)

* **New Interim HR Director at North** – **Xai Lewis**, who has been at Seattle Colleges since last June, has been named interim human resources director at North. She will continue to provide HR support with **Elizabeth Al Khuzaim** and **Barbara Smith**. Xai's passion for working in HR is based on her commitment to ensuring employees are connected to resources and her Ikigai (purpose) is employee engagement.

RIBBETING NEWS

* **Real Estate Club Explores Sammamish Village** – North Real Estate Club students recently had an exclusive opportunity to tour Sammamish Village, gaining firsthand insight into the

complexities of owning and managing commercial real estate. With expert guidance, the students saw how real estate professionals excel in property management, business development and client relationships. [Learn more.](#)

* **North Students Collaborate in Meadowbrook Pond Restoration** – Students in the Environmental Justice Club have been collaborating with Dirt Corps, a community-based ecological restoration program, to learn about various restoration skills in hopes of organizing end-of-year restoration events at North and South Seattle colleges. The latest event took place at Meadowbrook Pond, where students learned how to safely remove English Ivy from trees. The club has also been collaborating with organizations like 350 Seattle and Green Seattle Partnership.

* **EMT Program Sees Record High Enrollment Numbers** – North's Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program received 166 applications for the EMT program for spring quarter, with 145 of those applicants testing for a limited 80 spots. This record-setting number speaks volumes about the growing reputation of the program as a premier EMT program in the community. Processes are continuously being streamlined and customer service to prospective students remains top of mind as the program becomes more competitive.

* **Students Provide Free Tax Preparation Support to Community** – Fifteen current North students completed internships with the United Way of King County (UWKC) VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) program in winter quarter. The student interns assisted people in the community with free tax preparation. This is a service that is particularly beneficial for individuals and families who stand to benefit the most with this assistance. UWKC shared that they received glowing feedback from several of their managers about NSC students.

* **Application Development BAS Program Fundraiser** – North's Application Development Bachelor of Applied Science program has established a scholarship for students and is seeking donations to support students in the program. Donations help support students who are at risk in completing their bachelor's degree and need assistance for one quarter to continue pursuing the program. [Learn more.](#)

ON THE LILY PAD

* **Greeters Still Needed for Welcoming Students** – Slots are still available for greeting new students when spring quarter begins next week. Please contact [Jeanette Miller](#), dean, Student Support Services, for times and other details.

* **'The Unbearable Lightness of 300 Tons a Day' Now Showing** – North's Art Gallery, in partnership with the Recology King County Artist in Residents program, is excited to present *The Unbearable Lightness of 300 Tons a Day* through May 2. Alumni from the past nine years of the Recology King County AIR program come together for the first time to display new work made from the blue bin, offering a then-and-now look at how the experience of creating art from recyclable materials indelibly changed their lives and practice, as well as hinting at ways we might collectively rethink our relationship to the material world. The NSC Art Gallery is open Monday-Thursday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. [Learn more.](#)



* **Fundraiser Concert to Support Mary's Place Set for April 4** – An Evening of Music with Edie Carey is set for Friday, April 4, from 7 to 9 p.m., in North's Library Auditorium. The concert is a fundraising event for the Cesily Crowser Fund, which supports families at Mary's Place shelters. The suggested donation is \$30 for one ticket, \$50 for two. For information, please contact [Sally Blodgett Olson, MSW](#), Parent Education faculty.

* **Spring Student Engagement Fair Set for April 16** – The Spring Student Engagement Fair (previously the Club and Resource Fair) will be Wednesday, April 16, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Grove. This is a booth-style fair for students to learn more about clubs, affinity groups and resources. Tables should include information on your club, affinity group or resource, and how to get involved. Please use this [registration form](#) to sign up for a table by Wednesday, April 9. If you have any questions, please contact [Ruby Cavallo](#).

* **Panel of Muslim Authors Coming to North April 17** – You are invited to a community event featuring a panel of Muslim authors as they discuss the power of writing in community to create diverse and humanizing stories. This panel was part of the inaugural 2021-2023 Muslim Storyteller Fellowship, facilitated by the Highlights Foundation and funded by the Doris Duke Foundation. The event, which will be moderated by North faculty member **Diana Ma**, will take place in the library auditorium with the panel discussion from noon to 1:30 p.m., followed by a book signing until 2:30 p.m.

* **Springfest Sign-up Deadline is April 18** – Springfest is planned for Tuesday, May 13, from noon to 4 p.m. in the Grove courtyard, and if you are interested in tabling as a club/resource, performing or just being involved, [signups will continue through April 18](#). Springfest brings together the whole campus for spring quarter through free food, performances and tabling by clubs and resources. If you have any questions, please contact [Jeane Robles](#).

* **Volunteers Needed for UNEA Wellness Retreat April 18-19** – North and the Office of Access, Community and Opportunity have partnered with the Urban Native Education Alliance to host its Wichoni Waste Indigenous Wellness Retreat April 18-19 in the Grove. More than 200 people are expected to attend, and volunteers are needed to assist. If you are interested in helping, please contact [Jill Lane](#).

* **Chili Cook-off Competition Coming April 22** – Hosted by the President's Cabinet and the Instruction Department, North's 2025 Chili Cook-off is set for Tuesday, April 22, from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Business Division conference room (Instruction Building). If you've ever wished to show our campus how truly great your chili-making skills are (or just want an excuse to cook chili), this is the opportunity for you! Contestants who enter will have the ability to serve their chili to event attendees, while the attendees will have an opportunity to vote on whichever chili they think is the best. The chili with the most votes will be crowned "Best Chili of 2025" and the winning chef will receive a trophy to call their own (at least until next year). [Learn more/sign up](#).



* **Art and Craft Sale Applications Due April 27** – The NSC Art Group is excited to sponsor the 5th Annual Spring Art and Craft Sale Tuesday, May 13, in conjunction with Springfest. The sale will run from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. If you are interested in vending, [signups continue through April 27](#). All students, faculty, staff, alumni and currently enrolled Continuing Education

students at North are welcome to participate. For questions about the Art and Craft Sale, contact [Paula Rebsom](#).

* **Summer Camp for Kids Coming to North** – This summer, a camp for kids ages 5-12 is coming to North. “Champ Camp Great Outdoors” will last from June 23 to Aug. 22. The core camp hours are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., with no-fee extended hours starting at 7:30 a.m. before camp and lasting until 5:30 p.m. after camp. Fees are \$550 per week, which includes snacks and two field trips each week. (Camp is closed the week of July 4.) [Learn more](#).

PUDDLE JUMPING

* **Host of EAP Events and Webinars in April** – The month of April brings a wealth of offerings via the [Washington State Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#). These [resources](#) are available to support you and your family. Please refer to the March 31 email from District Human Resources for details.

* **Lifelong Learning Award Nominations Due April 30** – It’s that time of year to nominate your fellow colleagues for the Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees’ Lifelong Learning Awards. These annual awards are designed to recognize the outstanding employees in our college community. Please send nominations to [Toni Stankovic](#) no later than 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 30. Refer to the March 27 email from Vanessa Johnson for more details.

* **Commencement at UW June 20** – Graduates from all three Seattle Colleges – North, South and Central – will be honored at [commencement](#) Friday, June 20, at Alaska Airlines Arena on the University of Washington campus. More information will be shared soon, so for now, please save the date and plan to attend.



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