

North News Briefs



MAY 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

* **May is Mental Health Awareness Month** – May is Mental Health Awareness Month and the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is encouraging people to take action, raise your voice and help change the conversation around mental health. Since 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a driving force in addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions.



Whether by sharing your story, spreading awareness or advocating for change, every action helps break the stigma and build a more supportive world for all. [Learn more.](#)

TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in April were **Miski Abdi**, Financial Aid & Veteran Affairs; **Mariyam Abdulkarim**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Niles Brown**, Basic & Transitional Studies; **Samuel Case**, Continuing Education; **Freeman Cotton Jr.**, Campus Security; **Tinisha Davis**, Student Learning Center; **Michael Diaz**, Facilities & Plant Operations; **Jade Garfield**, Library, Teaching and Learning Center & Student Media Center; **Megan Gottfried**, Continuing Education; **Sidney Hemsley**, Workforce Instruction; **Maya Knowles**, College Access Partnerships; **William Leahy**, Student Learning Center; **Bryan Lemmer**, Student Learning Center; **Andrew Mayfield**, Workforce Instruction; **Solaima Mohamed**, Workforce Instruction; **Liliana Montes De Oca Ruiz**, Student Services; **Andrew Nagel**, Workforce Instruction; **Jerry Neufeld-Kaiser**, Continuing Education; **Trung Khac Nguyen**, Student Leadership; **Ixcheli Nieves**, Student Learning Center; **Alfher Nightingale**, Facilities & Plant Operations; **Reeve Parker**, Continuing Education; **William Rice**, Student Learning Center; **Erica Rogalla**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Taylor Roice**, Financial Aid & Veteran Affairs; **Nicholas Russell**, Math & Science; **Joel Sanchez**, Facilities & Plant Operations; **Paola Sierra Villalobos**, Facilities & Plant Operations; **Ashlyn Smith**, Instruction; **Asfandiyar Tanwer**, Workforce Instruction; and **Esther Yoo**, Workforce Instruction.

* **Phat Vuong Named Winter Golden Star Employee of Quarter** – Congratulations to Phat Vuong, lead custodian, Facilities, on being named North's Golden Star Employee for Winter Quarter. "Phat Vuong consistently embodies the exceptional qualities of a Golden Star Employee," a nominator wrote. "He not only excels in major responsibilities, such as ensuring each custodian understands their designated duties, but also goes the extra mile to provide them with the necessary tools and supplies in a timely manner." Way to go, Phat! Congratulations also to the other North employees nominated: Paul Cortez, Michael Giannetto,

Dan Hanify, Nancy Leverton, k.c. potter de haan, Ethan Radford, Adriana Roche, Barbara Smith, Alif Laila Tisha, Megan Valerio and Sarah Weiss.

*** North Student Earns Top 3 Honors on 2025 All-Washington List** – In addition to being named one of 20 college students for the prestigious 2025 All-USA Academic Team, North's Matias Saenz recently was named one of the Top 3 scholars on the 2025 All-Washington List by Phi Theta Kappa. Learn more about Matias and his inspirational story [here](#).

*** Student Leader Advocates in Olympia for State Board Representation** – One of North's student leaders, Samantha Baneth, joined other community college students in Olympia recently as part of the Washington Community Technical Colleges Student Association's efforts to advocate for representation on the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). Samantha was present as Gov. Bob Ferguson signed HB-1486 into law, adding a student member to the state board.



*** Teaching Has Never Stopped for North Tutor** – As a tutor at North's Page One Writing and Language Center, Susan Finkel loves seeing students and helping them meet their goals. And tutoring is really a natural continuation of what she has done most of her life. "Even at a young age, I felt that education was important, and the education of young children was critical for a good start in life," she says. Now she tutors adults and hopes to keep doing it for a long time. [Learn more](#).

RIBBETING NEWS

*** International Business Case Competition at North this Saturday** – This Saturday, May 3, North will host the first annual International Business Case Competition. Students from all three Seattle Colleges will be presenting their case solutions to a panel of judges and competing for prize money. Check-in begins at 8:30 a.m. with the first round of presentations at 9 a.m.

*** Watch Technology Institute in Spotlight at New York Gala** – North's Watch Technology Institute and student Esther Yoo were among the honorees during the Horological Society of New York's (HSNY) gala event in March. HSNY is America's first watchmaking guild, and the black-tie event brought together 400 of the most influential figures in the watchmaking community. During the ceremony, the Watch Technology Institute was one of four recipients of the Howard Robbins Award for Watchmaking Schools, and Esther was one of six recipients of the Grace Fryer Scholarship for Female Watchmaking Students. [Learn more](#).

*** North Partners with Microsoft for AI Bootcamp** – In partnership with Microsoft, North recently hosted a Learn for Educators Bootcamp focused on generative artificial intelligence (AI) training. The bootcamp was designed to equip North's instructional workforce with tools to effectively utilize generative AI, helping to streamline everyday tasks, such as creating or modifying a syllabus, lesson plans, quizzes, assignments and grading rubrics. North faculty and staff received a hands-on introduction to the power of generative AI for teaching. This provided a great opportunity for the college to deepen its partnership with Microsoft through this new AI project to train our educators, ultimately benefiting our students – and the broader technology community as they enter the workforce. The expectation is that this investment will

help ensure North's success in adapting our educational work to stay current in a rapidly evolving tech environment.

*** Rocketry Club Advises Middle Schoolers at Round Up** – Four members of the NSC Rocketry Club participated in the Odle Middle School (Bellevue) Rocket Round Up event March 26. Outgoing club president Sicoya Bellis was joined by incoming club president Kelly Souza and club members Carolina Gutierrez and Drew Olson. All four helped with judging and advising on the middle school students' The American Rocketry Challenge (TARC) rockets, as well as representing the rocketry club and North at their table. [Learn more.](#)



*** North BAS IB Students Use GWIL Practicum to Give Back** – Three Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) International Business (IB) students worked with the nonprofit Somali International Business Alliance (SIBA) during spring quarter for their Global Work Integrated Learning (GWIL) practicum. The students assisted SIBA by helping Somali refugees and other types of immigrants register their businesses. They also organized a clean air workshop at North for SIBA. Additionally, two BAS IB students worked with the nonprofit African Chamber of Commerce Pacific Northwest for their GWIL practicum. The students researched different initiatives, such as the adoption of port technology from Seattle to Senegal.

*** Workforce Programs Awarded \$60K in Direct Student Support** – North Workforce Programs was awarded \$60,000 in direct student support for work-based learning opportunities for the 2025-26 fiscal year. These funds were awarded through the Resource Allocation Process for the college's foundation funding. The funds will support two projects: it will compensate students who are doing unpaid internship experiences to fulfill credits for their program requirements; and compensation for students in the Application Development program who are working on real-life projects, including projects benefiting the campus community, such as the Licton Springs Review and Student Leadership events.

*** Efforts Underway to Launch Student Food Pantry** – North students experience a higher level of food insecurity than the national average, and studies have shown that students need to be fed healthy food on a regular basis to succeed in the classroom. NSC is launching a student food pantry to help students experiencing food insecurity. A grant from Student Leadership will help support the food pantry's needs, in addition to funds that are being collected to be spent on food for NSC students. Additionally, efforts are underway to build partnerships with local food advocacy groups and food banks to help spend the funds wisely.

*** NSC Art Gallery Show Gains Media Attention** – The NSC Art Gallery's recent show, 'The Unbearable Lightness of 300 Tons a Day,' which included work by 16 alumni from the past nine years of the Recology King County Artists in Residence program, has received a fair amount of media attention this spring. It was featured (with photos) in the April 15 Seattle Times story, ["Seattle art exhibit turns our trash into works of art,"](#) and was also mentioned by Cascade PBS in [an article](#) highlighting art exhibits during Earth Month in the Seattle area.

*** Early Childhood Education Program Seeks Donations** – In 2022, North's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program launched a scholarship fund. This "homegrown" fund has received donations largely from college faculty and staff who believe in our mission. Donations support scholarships and other costs of attendance for students in our programs. Most of our students

work full time while in our program. Many are just above the qualification for financial aid, yet the cost of tuition and fees can be prohibitive without scholarship support. Your generous donations support these students in growing professionally in the field and improving their ability to support young children and their families. We offer programming in four different languages and are proud to say that the priority of the ECE Fund is to ensure that students in our language immersion programs are financially supported to meet their goals. [Learn more.](#)

ON THE LILY PAD

* **Spring Reading Party May 7** – The library welcomes everyone to hang out and read together at the Spring Reading Party, Wednesday, May 7, from 2 to 4 p.m. on the top floor of the library. Bring your own book or borrow one from the library, then chill out with a refreshing drink (lemonade, iced tea, and fruit punch provided). For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#).

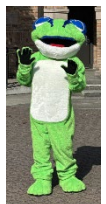
* **Planned Power Outage May 17-26** – A planned power outage to address campus infrastructure improvements is scheduled for May 17 through May 26. As communicated to all staff via email by Kristen Burton, vice president, Administrative Services, North will be conducting remote operations during this period. The college will resume onsite operations beginning Tuesday, May 27. Please work with your supervisor if you are unable to work remotely or must remain on site. If it is not feasible to work remotely, a temporary alternate work location will be identified.

* **Development Day Set for May 21** – Development Day is set for Wednesday, May 21, and this year it will be entirely online. If you would like to offer a workshop, lead a presentation, facilitate a discussion or host a community-building event, please submit a proposal by Wednesday, May 7. Selected presenters will be notified by Friday, May 9. [Learn more.](#)

* **Plan to Attend Service Awards Celebration June 4** – Please plan to attend the 2025 Annual Service Awards ceremony and celebrate North excellence! This year's event is in-person only and will be held in the World Community Center (CC1456) from 2 to 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 4. See the Outlook calendar event sent by Toni Stankovic, executive assistant to the president, for more details.

* **Making Learning & Teaching Visible Coming June 5** – What better way to end the academic year than with the annual symposium of student learning, Making Learning & Teaching Visible (MLTV), Thursday, June 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the World Community Center. This is a great opportunity for students to share their research, creative endeavors or other projects they want to showcase for the college community. Registration priority deadline is Friday, May 16. [Learn more.](#)

* **Be the Tree Frog Mascot for a Day!** – Have you ever wanted the chance to “hop” into the Tree Frog mascot costume? There are many opportunities to do so! If you’d like the chance to showcase your mascot talents and be **Star, the Pacific Tree Frog** for a day, please contact [Rakhee Phelps](#) and we will add your name to a list. As opportunities arise, we will contact you.



* **Discount Offered for Summer Camp 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, and North staff can receive a 20% discount by using the code NORTHSEATTLEMP25 when signing up online. [Learn more.](#)

PUDDLE JUMPING

* **AA and NHPI Heritage Month Events in May** – Throughout May, a series of events and programs are planned to uplift, educate and celebrate Asian American and Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander heritage and cultures. Online and in-person events will take place through May 28. Join the AANAPISI teams from all Seattle Colleges campuses. For more information, please contact [Rhandell Balboa Saya](#). [Learn more via Canvas](#).

* **Father's Survival Story Shared During Holocaust Day of Remembrance May 6** – On Tuesday, May 6, from 11 a.m. to noon, the Seattle Colleges' Division for Access, Community, and Opportunity, will host a speaker with the Seattle Holocaust Center for Humanity, who will share his father's survival story in remembrance of the Holocaust. [Zoom link](#).

* **Mindful Meditation Mondays** – All employees and students are invited to join the Mindful Meditation Zoom sessions each Monday from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. The sessions are free and led by mindfulness team members from all three Seattle Colleges campuses. The sessions continue through June 9. The meeting room URL is <https://tinyurl.com/yyx4eh9n>, password is Bliss! and the meeting ID: 994 361 6626.

* **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 (Hec Edmundson Pavilion) on the University of Washington campus. Please plan to join the ceremony and celebrate our Tree Frog graduates!



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