

North News Briefs



JUNE 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

* **June is LGBTQ+ Pride Month** – LGBTQ+ Pride Month is currently celebrated each year in the month of June to honor the 1969 Stonewall Uprising in Manhattan, NY. The Stonewall Uprising was a tipping point for the Gay Liberation Movement in the United States. In the U.S., the last Sunday in June was initially celebrated as "Gay Pride Day," but the actual day was flexible. In major cities across the nation the "day" soon grew to encompass a month-long series of events.



Today, celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ+ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world. Memorials are held during this month for those members of the community who have been lost to hate crimes or HIV/AIDS. The purpose of the commemorative month is to recognize the impact that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals have had on history locally, nationally, and internationally. [Learn more](#).

TREE FROG TIDBITS

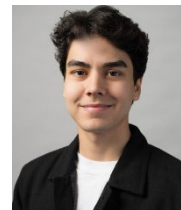
* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in May were **Kafia Abdilahi**, Workforce Education; **Griffin Carey**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Mamudou Ceesay**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Julia Deak Sandler**, Continuing Education; **Chuck Little**, Campus Operations; **Tristan Martinez**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Kiseri Redi**, Campus Security; **Amanda Takahashi**, Facilities and Plant Operations; and **Ali Al Khuzaim**, Workforce Instruction.

* **Instruction Hirings Announced** – Pete Lortz, Vice President of Instruction, recently announced several hirings: Alissa Agnello is officially the permanent dean of Math and Sciences; Madison Nelson is a new tenure-track full-time faculty member in Physics; Renee Almatierra is a new tenure-track full-time faculty member in Early Childhood Education; Matt Greene is a new tenure-track full-time faculty member in English; and James (Ben) Wirth is a new tenure-track full-time faculty member in English. For more details, please see Pete's May 22 email. All four of the new tenure-track full-time faculty members have a fall 2025 start date.

* **Students Present Research at Psychology Conference** – Three NSC Psychology students presented their original research at the Student Psychology Research Conference, sponsored by Eastern Washington University, at Bellevue College May 20. The students are Tesla Shic (Exploring the Relationship Between ACL-Tear Recovery and Anxiety in High School Athletes) and Samantha Baneth and Danielle Dillon (Measuring Friendship Values in

College Students Across Gender Identities). Faculty member Melissa Grinley sponsored the students at the conference.

*** North Student Receives Jack Kent Cooke Scholarship** – Congratulations to North student Matias Saenz, who received the Jack Kent Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The award is a highly selective scholarship for the nation's top community college students seeking to complete their bachelor's degrees at four-year colleges or universities. Each Cooke Scholar has access to generous financial support for two to three years, college planning support, ongoing advising and the opportunity to connect with the thriving community of fellow scholars. Only one other student in the state of Washington received the scholarship this year.



*** North Students Advance to International Literary and Art Competition** – The League for Innovation in the Community College, an international consortium of colleges across the United States and Canada, annually hosts both a student literary contest and a student art competition. Seattle Colleges hosts annual local, districtwide competitions from which students advance to the international level, where they compete with peers from the U.S. and Canada. Two North students earned spots at the international art competition: Alannah Laret (second place) and Emma George Saltzberg (third place); and two North students earned spots in the literary competition: Matthew Forster (Essay and Drama) and Ramsey Jester (Poetry). The Student Art and Literary Awards Celebration for Seattle Colleges will be Thursday, June 5, at 12:30 p.m., at the Broadway Performance Hall, Seattle Central College. [Learn more.](#)

*** Rocketry Club Members Earn National Certification** – Four members of North's Rocketry Club recently earned Level 1 High-Power Rocketry Certification from the National Association of Rocketry. They each built, launched and successfully recovered their high-power rocket at an event sponsored by the Yakama Nation and the Yakima Valley Rocketry Club in White Swan, Wash. The students are Ian Good, Carolina Gutierrez, Radiya Robele and incoming club president Kelly Souza.

*** Art Department Faculty Members Draw Attention** – Art faculty members Amanda Knowles and Shruti Ghatak recently were highlighted for their work in Public Display Art and King Street Station, respectively. The [Public Display Art article](#) about Amanda noted her work has been exhibited nationally and internationally and is currently represented by J. Rinehart Gallery. Shruti's story was shared by the City of Seattle's Art Beat, focusing on her exhibit at [King Street Station](#).

*** North President Selected for Inaugural Fellowship Program** – North President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas was selected as a participant in the inaugural cohort of the [Aspen-Kern Fellows for Leadership and Character in Higher Education](#). Dr. Rachel is one of just 20 invited to the program, which includes participants from colleges such as Notre Dame, Harvard, Bryn Mawr and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, among others.

RIBBETING NEWS

*** North Hosts Inaugural International Business Case Competition** – May 3 marked an exciting milestone for North as it proudly hosted its inaugural International Business Case Competition, bringing together 40 talented students from North Seattle and Seattle Central colleges for a dynamic day of collaboration, creativity and strategic thinking. This landmark event was sponsored by Student Leadership and made possible through the dedication of a small organizing committee and the enthusiastic support of 14 judges, including three faculty

members from Seattle Colleges and 11 industry professionals, seven of whom are proud alumni of North's International Business Bachelor of Applied Science program. [Learn more.](#)

*** Nominate Your Spring Golden STAR Employee of the Quarter** – There is still time to nominate your STAR employee for the Golden Star Employee of the Quarter award. Any North employee is eligible to nominate and be nominated for this prestigious award. The honored employee will receive an NSC Gold Star pin presented by President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, a framed certificate of appreciation from the college, college-wide recognition via email announcement and name immortalized on the STARS Employee of the Quarter plaque and a recognition gift. The deadline for nominations is Friday, June 13. [Learn more and nominate.](#)



*** Hands-On Engagement: Field Trips and Career Readiness Events** – As part of Discover Seattle Colleges Week, North hosted its first-ever large-scale field trips from Ingraham and Nathan Hale high schools, welcoming nearly 100 juniors and seniors to explore CTE programs and tour campus facilities. This event, held in collaboration with the Seattle Colleges District Limitless Grant and Seattle Promise, marks a growing commitment to early engagement with prospective students. Ingraham High School, located in the Haller Lake neighborhood, has a strong emphasis on academics and athletics. Nathan Hale High School, in the Meadowbrook neighborhood, is known for its project-based learning curriculum and commitment to fostering global citizenship among students.

*** North Leads Statewide Work in Prior Learning Assessment** – North has been selected to lead Seattle Colleges in a Washington Consortium of eight colleges through the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) initiative to advance Prior Learning Assessment (PLA) practices statewide. With a \$20,000 capacity-building subgrant to each of the eight colleges, supported by ECMC Philanthropy, North will pilot and scale PLA models that recognize learning acquired outside of the traditional classroom. This initiative is critical to accelerating credential completion for adult learners, veterans and working professionals, many of whom are part of the 40 million Americans with valuable skills but no college degree. North is now recognized as a state leader in equity-centered PLA innovation.

*** North Hosts Robert Eagle Middle School Students at Health Care Career Fair** – Twenty students from Robert Eagle Middle School's College and Career Club attended North's Health Care Career Fair May 12, where they attended a warmup session to talk about the importance of building networking skills. Two students from the Pharmacy Technician program spoke to the students about their experiences and goals for pursuing an education and career in health care. Students engaged with the vendors at the Health Care Career Fair and were treated to tours of the Pharmacy Technician and Emergency Medical Technician lab classrooms. After the lab tours, students were led on a campus highlights tour of the Student Learning Center, Library and Roy Flores Wellness Center.

*** Collaboration with Boeing Focuses on Aviation Electronics** – North recently welcomed representatives from Boeing to explore a strategic partnership with the Aviation Electronics program. The visit included a robust tour, faculty engagement and discussions about curriculum alignment, student internships and long-term talent pipeline development. Boeing is now actively partnering with North and South Seattle colleges to develop scholarship opportunities, workforce pathways and bridge programs, as well as VIP tours for students and faculty to Boeing sites in Redmond and Everett.

*** Partnership with Snowflake Creates Opportunities for Students**

– North Application Development (AD) Computer Science (CS) Advisory Board member and Snowflake Vice President Padmaja Vrudhula worked to open two positions exclusively for students in North's technology programs: Machine Learning/Artificial Intelligence Internship (CS BS student Dureti Shems) and Software Development Internship (AD BAS student Cameron Shimmin). Faculty sent referrals to Snowflake, who interviewed and selected the placements, which run from April 18 to July 18. Both students will work on a Solutions Innovation team project. The team is responsible for building out emerging technology solutions for customers in data analytics, machine learning and AI space. They will be working on site in the Bellevue Snowflake offices, embedded in real development teams, building up experience and making new connections.



*** Global Conversations: International Delegation Visit to North** – North hosted seven international higher education leaders for an event titled, "Opportunities for Innovation and Partnership in Higher Education." Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP), the visit was the culmination of a national tour across several states. Seattle was the group's final stop, and North was intentionally selected due to its exemplary programs and nationally recognized Spanish cohort model. Delegates included political and academic leaders from Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras and Peru, all of whom engaged in rich dialogue around equity, applied learning and international collaboration. The visit not only strengthened global networks but also positioned North as a preferred destination for future partnerships and student mobility. Delegates expressed strong interest in establishing formal exchange agreements and new pipelines for international students. Upon their return, they are expected to generate significant leads and promote North as a premier destination for global education and cultural exchange.

ON THE LILY PAD

*** NSC Juried Student Art Exhibition Now Open** – The 2025 NSC Juried Student Art Exhibition is now open at the NSC Art Gallery, and runs through Wednesday, June 18. Art gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Fridays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. On Thursday, June 5, everyone is invited to help celebrate at the awards ceremony from 4 to 5 p.m., featuring student presentations.

*** Mutual Aid Fair June 3** – On Tuesday, June 3, Student Leadership is presenting the 2025 Mutual Aid Fair, from 4 to 7 p.m., in the Grove. The event is in partnership with Access, Community and Opportunity; Belinda's Closet; Roy Flores Wellness Center; Clubs and Affinity Groups; Big Baby Publishing; Washington Health Benefit Exchange and Everywhen Collective. Concurrently with the fair, the University Food Bank will be held in the campus garage offering free food, clothes, harm reduction supplies and sexual health products.

*** 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** – You are invited to Making Learning & Teaching Visible (MLTV), North's annual symposium, to celebrate another year of academic

excellence. MLTV is on Thursday, June 5, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the World Community Center (CC1456). There will be research presentations, prose and poetry readings, art, panel discussions and a taco truck! For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#).

* **Nuclear Weapons Awareness Exhibition Set for June 9** – On Monday, June 9, the group Nuclear Weapons Awareness is bringing its Hiroshima Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibition to North, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in the Grove. The free exhibit is designed to help foster better understanding of the immense impact of nuclear arms on our world, disarmament, and peace. There will also be educational materials from the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.



* **Relaxing Crafting Hangout June 10** – Know of students who are looking for a place to take a break and relax from studying? The library is having a Relaxing Crafting Hangout, Tuesday, June 10, from 4 to 6 p.m., in the seminar room (LB2208). It will feature creating and decorating paper crafts like bookmarks, origami and coloring sheets. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#).

PUDDLE JUMPING

* **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.

* **3rd Annual Seattle Colleges Empowerment Luncheon June 13** – Chef Kristi Brown, a graduate of the Seattle Culinary Academy and founder of That Brown Girl Cooks Catering, is the keynote speaker at this year's 3rd Annual Seattle Colleges Empowerment Luncheon. The event will be at the Georgetown Campus (Building C) Friday, June 13, beginning at 10 a.m. For more information, please see the May 13 email from the Division for Access, Community and Opportunity.

* **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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