

North News Briefs



JULY 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

* **July is Disability Pride Month** – Disability Pride Month is a time to recognize the history, achievements, experiences and struggles of people with disabilities. It affirms disability is a natural and valuable part of human diversity – not a deficit or condition to be fixed. More than one in four adults in the United States (over 70 million people) have a disability. This month calls on everyone to promote inclusion and ensure people with disabilities are accepted exactly as they are, without conditions. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in June were **Shawn Fields**, student, Workforce Instruction; **Su Jimale**, student, Library, The Learning Center and Student Media Center; **Quincy McFalls**, hourly assistant I, Workforce Instruction; **Kat Reinert**, part-time faculty, Workforce Instruction; and **Tino Ubungen**, registrar, Registration and Records.

* **New Registrar Joins North** – Dr. Andre Davis, dean, Student Success and Student Services, recently announced the hiring of **Florentino “Tino” Ubungen** as North's new registrar. Tino has more than 15 years of experience in higher education, having served in key leadership roles that span counseling, enrollment management and student success. Most recently, he was director of Outreach, Recruitment and Enrollment at Everett Community College.

* **Rakhee Phelps Named Golden Star Classified Employee of the Year** – Congratulations to **Rakhee Phelps**, who received North's 2025 Golden Star Classified Employee of the Year Award at last month's Service Awards ceremony. As marketing manager, Rakhee has been instrumental in shaping the college's public image and fostering community engagement. Her leadership ensures NSC's programs and initiatives are effectively promoted across various platforms, including social media, the college website and digital signage, among others. Rakhee's unwavering dedication, innovative leadership and commitment to community engagement make her a very deserving recipient. Other nominees this year were **Sidney Kemp**, **Nancy Leverton**, **Camille Lin**, **Tim Lorentz**, **Vanessa Martinez**, **Kevin Mooney**, **Barbara Smith** and **Phat Vuong**.

* **Amor Zarate Named Golden Star Employee of the Quarter** – Congratulations to **Amor Zarate**, student success specialist, Workforce Instruction, on receiving the NSC Golden Star Employee of the Quarter for Spring 2025. Amor was nominated for her “exemplary commitment to equity, strong professional ethics and tireless dedication to serving the Latinx

community.” She also “provides support to students and families while actively advocating for their rights, ensuring their voices are heard and respected. Her work reflects a deep sense of social justice and a true spirit of community leadership.”

*** North Student Named 2025 Martin Achievement Scholar – Ramon Cazarez,** who is pursuing an Associate of Arts degree in Business at North, was one of three Washington state community college students who received the 2025 Martin Family Foundation Achievement Scholarship. These scholars are selected early in their community college career and receive funds and support for their study and eventual transfer to the University of Washington. Individuals selected for the scholarship have demonstrated signs of exceptional ability in sciences, math, engineering, business, arts, humanities, music, social sciences and leadership. Ramon was joined by South Seattle College’s Solimon Khesrawi and Everett Community College’s Jennifer El Khoury. [Learn more.](#)



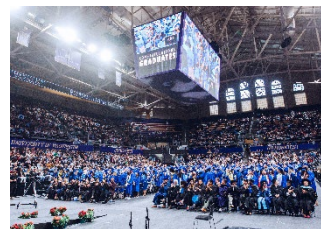
*** Three Faculty Highlighted for Growing Spanish ECE Program** – Workforce Instruction is highlighting three faculty who worked full-time in the '24-'25 school year teaching the growing Spanish Language Early Childhood Education program. **Elidia Sangerman, Pia Barreto Johnson** and **Samatha Carrillo** have worked to build the ECE program from a 12-credit certificate to Washington state's first bachelor of applied science degree offered fully in Spanish. In addition to contextualizing the curriculum to our student communities, the faculty team builds relationships with community partners and advocates for students across campus. They take part in a statewide workgroup focused on building capacity at other colleges to serve Spanish-speaking members of the workforce by providing mentoring, sharing resources and collaborating on advocacy. Additionally, they contribute to various committees at North Seattle, embedding themselves in the campus community.

*** IT Faculty Recognized for Dedication and Innovation** – Workforce Instruction recognizes the dedication and innovation of IT faculty **Poul Nichols**. This year, he stepped into the role of IT faculty program coordinator and quickly became an integral leader, supporting student success while actively participating in Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meetings. Among other achievements, Poul participated in the TLC's Pathways to Teaching Excellence series to enhance his course delivery, has adopted and prepared an open-source database textbook for IT 125, and has co-led two hands-on network cabling workshops during the Discover Seattle Colleges event. He also led the IT department's program review this past school year.

*** Interdisciplinary Collaboration Results in Creating New Program Pathway Map** – An interdisciplinary collaboration resulted in the creation of an Ethics in Technology AA degree program pathway map. This is the result of work among three faculty, **Anthony Ferrucci (Philosophy), Ana Villar (Library), and Bob Bunge (IT)**, and **Molly Brown**, director, Advising. This pathway meets requirements for the Associate of Arts Direct-Transfer Agreement ([AA-DTA](#)) degree with a concentration in Ethics in Technology. Students in this pathway develop skills in computational tools and theory, problem solving, analytical and critical thinking, ability to understand different perspectives, apply concepts in real world situations, interpret ideas, context of understanding advancement in technology and its relationship to human experience. The pathway is now available for students to select in their application.

RIBBETING NEWS

* **North Class of '25 Honored During Commencement** – North Seattle College honored the class of 2025 during the Seattle Colleges commencement ceremony June 20 at Alaska Airlines Arena on the University of Washington campus. Some 1,141 graduates completed their programs and earned a degree or certificate during a time in which students have faced many challenges. [Learn more](#).



* **Watch Video of North's Student Commencement Speaker** – Earning a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in International Business required a balancing act for North's student commencement speaker, **Debby Orellana**. "I was a full-time student, a full-time employee, a full-time mom, and a part-time human," she joked. Now, she is excited about a career working with small businesses rooted in Latin America. [Watch video](#).

* **Students' Research Showcased at UW Symposium** – Seventeen North students across eight teams presented their original research at the University of Washington's Undergraduate Research Symposium in May. Most of the students developed and implemented their research over the span of two or more quarters in North's Undergraduate Research course (UGR 294), team-taught by Biology faculty **Ann Murkowski** and Chemistry faculty **Heather Price**. [Learn more](#).

* **Program Paves Way with Math Course for Early Childhood Educators** – Members of North's Early Childhood Education program presented on the MATH 133, Math for Early Childhood Educators Course at the recent spring Early Childhood Teacher Prep Council retreat, a statewide gathering of faculty and staff. The course was launched a year ago in partnership with Childcare Aware through a Boeing grant and averaged a 91.7% completion rate in its pilot year. Other colleges are now working to pick up the course and North endeavors to help it become a statewide common course.

* **North Partners with Seattle Fire Department Partnership** – Thanks to collaboration between NSC Internships and the Seattle Fire Department (SFD), North is now in its third year of partnership in which students in the Fire Science AAS degree program engage in curated job shadow opportunities with SFD. Students have the option of completing the job shadow experience to fulfill their required internship credits for the degree.

* **NSC Alum Speaks at UW College of Education Graduation** – North alum [Raishawn Swensen](#), who graduated from North in 2023 with a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education, was selected to speak at this year's University of Washington College of Education graduation celebration. Rai received a master's degree in Educational Foundations, Leadership & Policy this year from UW. You can watch her speech on [YouTube](#) (beginning at approximately the 36:30 mark.)

* **NSC Alum Featured in Seattle Medium** – **Craig Jackson**, who received a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education at North in 2023, was recently featured in *The Seattle Medium*. The story chronicles Jackson's winding path that led him to receiving a master's degree in education from the University of Washington. [Learn more](#).

ON THE LILY PAD

* **Greeters Wanted to Welcome Students to Summer Quarter** – Faculty, staff, administrators and students who take time to personally assist new and returning students at a

greeter table are needed for Monday, July 7, and Tuesday, July 8. Typically, students ask directions to classrooms and offices, and have basic questions about parking, wait lists, tutoring and computer labs. The table will be stocked with campus resource materials, such as division information, forms, tutoring hours and the Roy Flores Wellness Center schedule. Shifts are available between 8 a.m. and 1 p.m. both days. Please contact [Jeanette Miller](#), dean, Student Support Services if you are interested.

* **Carla Thompson to be Recognized and Celebrated July 9** – Please join Workforce Instruction Wednesday, July 9, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. in the North Star Dining Room to celebrate, recognize and thank **Carla Thompson**, Cooperative Work Experience (Internships), who will be leaving the college this summer. Carla has been an incredible advocate and resource for students in helping them prepare for internships and job opportunities. She has coordinated career events, such as Handshakes and Headshots, led information sessions for students on finding internships and enrolling in internship classes, and met with countless students over the years to support them in finding and completing their internship experiences.

* **Mural Unveiling July 14 at Instructional Building** – Everyone is invited to the unveiling of North's newest mural. The event will feature mural artist **Ronald Diaz**, and there will be a popsicle party for kids. It starts at 10:30 a.m. in front of room 1303 of the Instructional Building. Bring the kids early as they can play and enjoy fun activities at the large playground, beginning at 10 a.m. After the unveiling, kids can cool off and join the mural festivities with a sweet popsicle treat. So, bring your energy, creativity and community spirit as this exciting new piece of art is showcased.

* **Get Ready for 11th Annual CE Student Art Exhibition** – Calling all art lovers: Mark your calendars for the hottest art event of the summer – the 11th Annual Continuing Education Student Art Exhibition at the NSC Art Gallery, July 15 through Aug. 14. A reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Monday, July 14, will open the exhibition, featuring light refreshments, an awards ceremony (7 p.m.) and a sneak preview of the gallery. The exhibition will be open Tuesdays through Fridays from noon to 2 p.m., with early evening hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. Do not miss out on this artistic extravaganza!



PUDDLE JUMPING

* **Seattle Colleges Night with the Mariners July 22** – The Seattle Colleges Foundation is hosting the second annual Seattle Colleges Night when the Mariners take on the Milwaukee Brewers, at 6:40 p.m., Tuesday, July 22, at T-Mobile Park. The specially priced ticket (\$52.79) includes a pre-game celebration on T-Mobile's Rooftop Boardwalk, a prime seat on the 100-level and a commemorative T-shirt. [Learn more.](#)



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