

# North News Briefs



**AUGUST 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](mailto: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**

### **\* August is National Immunization Awareness Month –**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Immunization Awareness Month (NIAM) is an annual observance held in August to highlight the importance of vaccination for people of all ages. The CDC looks to help raise awareness about the importance of vaccination and encourage people to talk to a healthcare provider they trust about staying up to date on their vaccinations. The National Foundation for Infectious Diseases advises that vaccines are one of the safest preventive care measures available and help play a vital role in keeping us healthy. When vaccines are skipped, we become vulnerable to illnesses such as shingles, influenza (flu), and HPV and hepatitis-B – both leading causes of cancer. [Learn more.](#)



## **TREE FROG TIDBITS**

**\* Welcome to North!** Joining North in July were **Colette Apostol**, Student Learning Center; **Andrew Buckles**, Student Learning Center; **Evelyn Chow**, Campus Security; **Lauren Connelly**, Workforce Instruction; **Shannon Conroy**, Student Learning Center; **Christina Flevaris**, Continuing Education; **Aleksandr Gerasimchuk**, Campus Security; **Windy Gossett**, Continuing Education; **Etzon Gutierrez**, Student Leadership; **Radia Houssou**, Workforce Instruction; **Duncan Kastner**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Helina Kebede**, Student Learning Center; **Sandra Keller**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Takeshi Kitagawa**, Continuing Education; **Kathleen Klein**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Pratima Lakhota**, Workforce Instruction; **Pei-Chun Liao**, Counseling; **Julia Lowther**, Continuing Education; **Sienna Mack**, Student Learning Center; **Jeannie Nguyen**, Student Services; **Kayako Omori**, Continuing Education; **Alden Sharpley**, Library, Teaching and Learning Center, and Student Media Center; **Grace Soukup**, Facilities and Plant Operations; **Jennie Tejada-Cardona**, Workforce Instruction; **Julie Venezia**, Workforce Instruction; and **Ben Wirth**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences.

**\* North Welcomes New VP of Student Services** – As announced by **President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas**, North will soon welcome a new vice president of Student Services. **Claire Peinado**, who has been servicing in the same role at Skagit Valley College since 2018, will begin at North on Friday, Aug. 15. She brings a wealth of experience to help advance the success of our students. Please see Dr. Rachel's July 1 email for more details.

**\* New Retention Specialist Joins North Seattle Promise Team** – **Arham Javid**, who recently worked as a labor policy researcher for the Washington Labor Education and

Research Center, has joined North's Seattle Promise team as a retention specialist. Arham is a Sacramento, Calif. native who studied International Affairs at UC-Riverside. Please see the July 7 email from Dean of Student Support Services **Jeanette Miller** on behalf of **Katie Bates**, director, Student Retention, for more details.

\* **Andy Buchanan Named Permanent Director of Budget & Business Ops** – On July 9, Vice President of Administrative Services **Kristen Burton** shared the news that **Andy Buchanan** has been named to the permanent position of director, Budget and Business Operations at North. He has been serving in the interim role during an incredibly challenging time as the district has worked to resolve a budget deficit. Andy's expertise and experience continues to serve the college well. For more details, please see Kristen's July 9 email.

### RIBBETING NEWS

\* **Three North Students Earn Awards at Art & Literary Competitions** – Three North students have earned awards in this year's international student art and literary competitions sponsored by the League for Innovation in the Community College. These contests are held annually by the league and hosted and conducted by member institutions. North honorees included **Alannah Laret**, who took the Juror's Choice Award in the student art competition for "Mother Ocean; **Ramsey Jester**, who took second place in the poetry category of the student literary competition for "Evidence For and Against Solipsism;" and **Mathew Forster**, who took third place in the category of one-act play of the student literary competition for "M.I.S.O. Soup." [Learn more.](#)

\* **Graduate Profile: Jovie Santos** – After 23 years as a stay-at-home mom raising three boys, Jovie Santos graduated in June, earning a Bachelor of Applied Science degree in Residential and Commercial Property Management at North. Read her inspirational profile on North's [website](#).

### ON THE LILY PAD

\* **Tree Care & Wetland Restoration Work Party Aug. 2** – Tomorrow, Saturday, Aug. 2, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., North's Environmental Justice Club is co-hosting a tree care and wetland restoration work party at Meadowbrook Pond (10700 36th Avenue NE). There will be a one-hour workshop by Rick Swing, Thornton Creek Alliance, and Jana Robbins, Trees for Neighborhoods, to share their experiences in urban forestry and watershed restoration in Seattle. The goal is to teach students, faculty and staff about civic engagement and community building. This will be followed by two hours of restoration work, where we will learn wetland care skills and enjoy the sunshine. This is being hosted in conjunction with Trees for Neighborhoods, Dirt Corps, Thornton Creek Alliance and Seattle Public Utilities. [Learn more.](#)



\* **11th Annual CE Student Art Exhibition** – The 11th Annual Continuing Education Student Art Exhibition at the NSC Art Gallery continues through Aug. 14. 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 this artistic extravaganza! [Learn more.](#)

\* **Wellness Center Offers Something for Everyone** – The Roy Flores Wellness Center is open Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Drop-in classes and open gym times are

available, offering many great options for movement and fun. Visit the Wellness Center [website](#) for details.

\* **Major I-5 Projects Create Commuting Challenges** – The Washington State Department of Transportation’s “Revive I-5” construction project is well underway and continues to affect area traffic. To stay up to date with the latest information and how it may affect your commute, be sure to visit WSDOT’s [project page](#), where you can sign up for [email updates](#).

\* **Mark Your Calendar for President’s Day** – This year, President’s Day is set for the morning of Wednesday, Sept. 24, in the World Community Center (southeast corner of the College Center building). Details will be shared soon, but please put the date on your calendar and plan to attend this great way to launch fall quarter with the North community. Also, note that there will be no convocation this year, so each of the three Seattle Colleges will have its President’s Day on separate dates.

### PUDDLE JUMPING

\* **New In-person Orientation Pilot Program Coming this Fall** – Beginning this fall, Seattle Colleges is launching a new in-person orientation pilot program for students called Campus Connect. It was developed through a collaborative committee that began meeting in winter 2025, with the goal of creating a unified and welcoming experience for incoming students. This pilot integrates the existing Seattle Promise Summer Bridge programming with broader orientation efforts across the three campuses, ensuring a more inclusive and cohesive approach to student onboarding. At North, Campus Connect events will be on Aug. 27, Aug. 28, Sept. 17 and Sept. 18. [Learn more](#).

\* **Commencement ’25 Celebration Remembered** – As a way of reliving the awesome celebration that was Seattle Colleges Commencement 2025, an [archive webpage](#) is available, linked from the main [Commencement](#) page. The site includes videos of both commencement ceremonies and student speakers, as well.



\* **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 Aug. 18. The meeting room URL is <https://tinyurl.com/yyx4eh9n>, password is Bliss! and the meeting ID: 994 361 6626.



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#### Office of Communications

North Seattle College | [northseattle.edu](http://northseattle.edu)

College Center Building | 9600 College Way North | Seattle, WA 98103

Mike Sprouse, Communications Director, 206.934.7791

Rakhee Phelps, Marketing Manager, 206.934.5681

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