

# North News Briefs



**SEPTEMBER 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**

\* **September is Suicide Prevention Month** – Each September, the National Alliance on Mental Illness recognizes Suicide Prevention Month as a time to raise awareness, spread hope and spark meaningful action around one of the most urgent mental health issues of our time. The goal is to ensure that individuals, friends and families have access to the tools, resources and support they need to talk openly about suicide prevention, recognize warning signs and seek help. This year's theme is "Start a Conversation. Be the Difference." With one conversation, asking someone how they are really doing – and being ready to truly listen – can save lives. [Learn more](#).



## **TREE FROG TIDBITS**

\* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in August were **Edgar Barrientos**, Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs; **John Berks**, Continuing Education; **Navdha Chadha**, Workforce Instruction; **Eli Davis**, Workforce Instruction; **Johnson Gouvea**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Spencer Harris**, Facilities and Plant Operations; **Hannah Houser**, Library, Teaching and Learning Center and Student Media Center; **Jamasen Jobe**, Workforce Instruction; **Ady Kenady**, Workforce Instruction; **Vladimir Koltman**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Andrew Nickerson**, Student Learning Center; **Heidi Packard**, Continuing Education; **Claire Peinado**, Student Services; **Ix Procopios**, Workforce Instruction; **Brian Reinhard**, Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs; **James Riefer**, Campus Operations; **Julie Stoltman**, Workforce Instruction; and **Dainghia Tran**, Workforce Instruction;

\* **North Student Named Leaders of Promise Scholar** – North student Carlotta Mizzotti is one of 220 Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) members named a 2025 Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholar and will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. The Coca-Cola Leaders of Promise Scholarship Program helps new PTK members defray educational expenses while enrolled in associate degree programs. Carlotta is an international student from Italy and an officer on North's student leadership team. She attended the PTK Honor Institute in Chicago last May and is working with the Volunteer Club at North to organize a fall blood drive. [Learn more](#).



\* **New HR Director Joining North** – As announced Aug. 25 by President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas and Seattle Colleges Vice Chancellor of Human Resources Jennifer Dixon, North will be welcoming its new HR director, Darlene Mendoza, on Monday, Sept. 8. Darlene comes to North from the Tacoma-Pierce County Health Department, where she served as director of

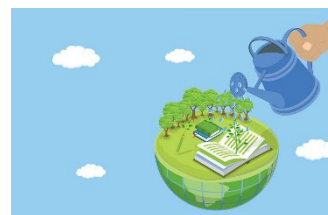
HR and Risk Management. In addition to welcoming Darlene, Dr. Rachel and Jennifer expressed their gratitude to Xai Lewis, who stepped in and served as interim director for the past several months.

\* **North Welcomes New Seattle Promise Retention Specialist** – Margaret Jadczak recently joined North's Seattle Promise Retention team. She worked in Admissions for the past three-and-a-half years at Central and is looking forward to supporting students at North. For more about Margaret, please see the Aug. 20 email from Sy Ear, acting dean, Student Success, on behalf of Katie Bates, director, Student Retention, Seattle Promise.

### RIBBETING NEWS

\* **North Noted for Climate Justice Work** – North's climate justice work is highlighted in a recent Community College Journal article titled, "Spreading Climate Science Across the Curriculum." The story notes how the state board received funding three years ago to create the Climate Solutions Program and that faculty at North and Bellevue College developed the climate justice across the curriculum model.

[Learn more.](#)



\* **Advancing Key Priorities Through Program TAC Review** – North is advancing key priorities in collaboration with the district team through completion of Technical Advisory Committee ethics training. Additionally, North is leading a district-wide Information Technology program Technical Advisory Committee review. North also collaborates with district to optimize federal and state allocations as strategic investments in cutting-edge teaching and learning equipment, ensuring programs remain current and hands-on for today's technical workforce.

### ON THE LILY PAD

\* **President's Day Set for Sept. 24** – All North employees are invited to the annual President's Day event in the World Community Center (College Center, room 1456) Wednesday, Sept. 24. Join your colleagues for breakfast, a full program highlighting President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas' vision for our year ahead, group activities, lunch and a fantasy-themed campus tour. Breakfast service will start at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9 a.m. This year's theme is "Stronger Together." Please see the Outlook invite sent by Toni Stankovic, executive assistant, President's Office, on Aug. 25, and be sure to [RSVP for your lunch option](#). (Remember: no RSVP, no lunch!) Hope to see everyone on Sept. 24!



\* **Regular Business Hours Update** – As communicated to all staff via email from North Communications on Aug. 12, North's regular business hours for the upcoming academic year will be from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, with in-person services available Monday through Thursday, and remote services on Fridays. Summer hours ended last Friday, Aug. 29. The regular business hours were approved by the Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees (Policy 402) earlier this summer. For more, please refer to the email mentioned above or visit the [Work Schedule and Regular Business Hours](#) webpage.

\* **Opening Doors to Opportunities Fair Sept. 4** – The Opportunity Center is hosting its second annual Opening Doors to Opportunities resource and employer fair this Thursday, Sept. 4, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The event is designed to help connect people with job opportunities, resources and access to education. It is open to all and is especially focused on

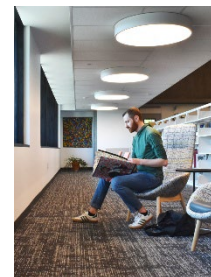
those who have been affected by the justice system. North is one of several sponsoring organizations. If you have questions, please email [David Duche](#) in the Employment Security Department.

\* **Micro Market Temporarily Closed Until Sept. 15** – This is a reminder that the Micro Market in the Grove will continue to be temporarily closed until Monday, Sept. 15, as the Food Services department undergoes a transition in their services. During this time, the department is making changes to its vendors and payment systems to improve the overall experience in the Micro Market. For more details, please see the Aug. 1 and Aug. 27 emails from Kristen Burton, vice president, Administrative Services, on behalf of Hong-An Truong, program specialist 2, Food Services.

\* **Back-to-School Syllabus Workshop for Faculty Sept. 25** – Faculty members are invited to the Teaching and Learning Center (Library, rooms 2201 and 2102) on Thursday, Sept 25, from 1 to 3 p.m. for a back-to-school syllabus workshop. The session will kick off with a discussion about what has been put into syllabi over the years, what has been taken out of syllabi over the years and other engaging topics. Afterward, the TLC workspace and classroom will be open to work independently or collaboratively on fall syllabi. Two facilitators will be there to answer questions and offer suggestions. In addition, lunch will be provided at noon and there will be a Canvas shell full of syllabus blurbs and ideas to pull from. A laptop is highly recommended, though a notebook and hard copy of your syllabi are more than welcome.

\* **Wellness Center Closed Until Fall Quarter** – Due to construction, the Roy Flores Wellness Center will be closed over the break between quarters. It will reopen the first day of fall quarter. All Continuing Education will be relocated and students and staff in these classes will be informed. Physical Education classes will take place virtually. If you have any questions, please contact [Megan Valerio](#), director, Wellness Center.

\* **Library Hours During Summer Break** – The library will be closed for its annual break through Friday, Sept. 5. It will reopen Monday through Thursday, Sept. 8-25, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The first two weeks of fall quarter, library hours will be Sept. 29-Oct. 10, Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Regular library hours begin Oct. 11: Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Tuesday from 9 a.m. To 8 p.m.; and Friday from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.



## PUDDLE JUMPING

\* **New In-person Orientation Pilot Program** – Seattle Colleges has launched 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, the next Campus Connect events will be on Sept. 17 and Sept. 18. Earlier sessions were held on Aug. 27 and Aug. 28. [Learn more.](#)

\* **Online Bookstore Pilots Inclusive Access Program** – This fall, a small group of courses will be part of a Seattle Colleges' Online Bookstore pilot program called Inclusive Access. This program is managed by our online bookstore provider, Akademos. It provides all required course materials in a digital format with access on day one of the quarter to all registered

students for a specific class. Instead of purchasing traditional textbooks separately, the deeply discounted cost of these materials is billed to their student account, offering a more affordable and convenient way to access required course material. Much more information, including a list of the pilot group courses and details on how students are being informed, was shared in an Aug. 25 email from the “District, SCDBF” department account.



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