

North News Briefs



OCTOBER 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

* **October is National Book Month** – Each October, National Book Month allows us to celebrate and expand our love of reading. As the warm temperatures start to leave us for the winter, it is the perfect time to put on some cozy slippers, have a cup of tea and curl up on the couch with a good book. It is easy to get caught up in the busyness of everyday life and forget to enjoy the little things. Many of us put our relaxing hobbies like reading on the backburner, but this month, pick up a few new books and make time to read them. It's a great hobby to get into! [Learn more about National Book Month.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in September were **Khadiga Aboueisha**, Library, Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) and Student Media Center (SMC); **Haruki Asano**, College Access Partnerships; **Youssef Bel Hayania**, Student Leadership; **Kayla Cassano**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS); **Hyung-Yay Cho**, Workforce Instruction; **Jenny Clapp**, AHSS; **Dino deRaad**, Math and Science; **Noemi Foldesi Jr.**, Library, TLC and SMC; **Sukku Gautam**, Business Operations; **Terrence Guerin**, Workforce Instruction; **Blen Hadgu**, Library, TLC and SMC; **Liliane Hunt**, AHSS; **Melissa Jenkins**, Math and Science; **Aranya Kitnikone**, College Access Partnerships; **Daniel Le**, College Access Partnerships; **Hailey Lee**, Workforce Instruction; **Benjamin Leipzig**, Math and Science; **Lee Leon**, Student Success Services; **Pei Liao**, Counseling; **Rosie Luna**, Math and Science; **Paul Mattox**, Workforce Instruction; **Darlene Mendoza**, Human Resources; **Maria Molano**, Basic and Transitional Studies (BTS); **Mercy Naw-Khin**, Workforce Instruction; **Madison Nelson**, Math and Science; **Randa Osman**, Advising and Student Success; **Amy Pottharst**, Library, TLC and SMC; **Ix Procopios**, Workforce Instruction; **Reichelle Robles**, Student Learning Center; **Gemma Font Roig**, BTS; **Stephanie Ruiz-Martinez**, AHSS; **Peter Sakura**, BTS; **Elidia Sangerman**, Workforce Instruction; **Movakel Sargizi**, Math and Science; **Hyacinth Shahu**, Student Learning Center; **Kritika Sharma**, Student Leadership; **Douglas Sinn**, Student Learning Center; **Jacob Skolnick**, Student Leadership; **Sarah Swanberg**, BTS; **Bee Tawa**, Student Learning Center; **Faith Thompson**, BTS; **Linh Tran**, Workforce Instruction; **Elissa Wu**, Workforce Instruction; and **Camila Yoo**, College Access Partnerships.

* **Jeanice Freeman Selected for Inaugural Cohort of Middle Leadership Academy** – Jeanice Freeman, director, Workforce Education, has been selected to be in the inaugural cohort of the Middle Leadership Academy Fellowship program through the Washington State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. The Washington State Student Success Center launched the academy, a statewide initiative preparing equity-minded mid-level leaders to advance Guided Pathways and student success across the system. This cohort of Fellows will engage in a yearlong cohort, collaborate with experienced coaches, and complete applied projects that strengthen student success and equity efforts across the state's community and technical colleges.

*** Former North President Featured in Community College Daily** – Mark Mitsui, who served as president at North from 2010 to 2013, was recently featured in a Community College Daily article highlighting what he has been up to since retiring. Mark also served as president of Portland Community College from 2016 to 2022 and spent three years in between college president stints as deputy assistant secretary of education for community colleges in the Obama administration. [Learn more](#).

RIBBETING NEWS

*** Leadership in Career Education: Perkins and CLNA Collaboration** – North continues to support the Seattle Colleges' efforts around the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA) and Perkins Task Forces, working to shape a robust Career and Technical Education strategy. Melana Yanos, dean, Workforce Education, joined the district team in submitting a Perkins funding proposal nearing \$1 million, primarily aimed at equipment upgrades and faculty stipends. North has also collaborated with the district office and applied for the Leadership Block Grant, which supports faculty professional development.

*** ECE Program Nominated for League for Innovation Learning Abstracts** – Seattle Colleges leadership recently nominated North's Early Childhood Education program to be featured in the League for Innovation's upcoming Learning Abstracts. The ECE program exemplifies the best of what Seattle Colleges have to offer in that it provides an opportunity for students who have completed an associate degree in ECE or a related field to continue their studies and earn a Bachelor of Applied Science degree. Its focus on language cohorts and partnerships with transfer divisions to offer general education courses in relevant languages is especially compelling.

*** New Treehouse Mural Brings More Color and Life to North Campus** – A new mural located near North's Spanish Language Cooperative Preschool was unveiled earlier this year. The mural titled, The Treehouse That Joins with Nature, was created by muralist Ronald Diaz Hernandez. A central feature of the mural is a group of chicks, representing Pollitos Preescolar Cooperativa en Español – the first monolingual Spanish-language cooperative preschool dedicated to giving children the gift of Spanish language and culture. While sitting on a bench nearby, one can see how the trees painted in the mural seamlessly connect with the real trees surrounding it, blending art and nature into one. The mural captures a spirit of playfulness and vitality, symbolizing the joy that children bring to campus.



*** Applications Open for Terry O'Banion Provocateur Award** – Terry O'Banion has long been recognized as one of the most influential and provocative voices in the history of community and technical colleges. His work not only sparked national conversations, but also has led to tangible, lasting change in how colleges serve students, train leaders and define their missions. The Terry O'Banion Provocateur Award seeks to recognize individuals who, like O'Banion, use bold, courageous approaches to address systemic challenges in the community and technical college field. Each award recipient will prepare an article on their respective topics, which will be published by the League for Innovation. Award recipients will present their work at the [League's Innovations Conference](#) in March, and each will receive a complimentary registration to the conference, up to \$1,000 for travel expenses, a commemorative plaque and a monetary award. Please see the [League for Innovations website](#) for guidelines and application information.

*** New Student Meal Program Launched** – Building on the vision of former student body president Nagi, Student Leadership is launching a new partnership with the campus Mini Mart to provide more than 300 free meals each week for students. Meals will be available Monday through Thursday on a first-come, first-served basis during the academic year. Student leaders will be on campus each week to gather feedback and ensure the initiative helps make the school year healthier, more engaging and more successful for students. For additional information, please see the Sept. 30 email from Jeanette

Miller, dean, Student Support Services, on behalf of Bralyn Beathea, director, Student Leadership and Engagement.

*** North Holds Memorial to Honor Lives Lost 10 Years Ago –**

On the morning of Sept. 24, just prior to the President's Day program, North held a memorial service for the students lost and injured 10 years ago in the Aurora Bridge Ride the Ducks-bus accident. Employees and members of the community gathered for moments of remembrance at the World Community Garden, which was dedicated to those who died and those who were injured. Former North President Dr. Warren Brown provided remarks, including words provided by retired faculty member Bill Holt, and those in attendance had the opportunity to place flowers on an evergreen garland to honor the memory of those perished and injured.



*** North Highlighted in Article on Climate Solutions –** North was recently highlighted in a Community College Journal article for faculty's work with Bellevue College in developing the climate justice across the curriculum model. The program came about due to requests from a group of college presidents, vice presidents of instruction and faculty members. It is part of the state's [Climate Solutions Program](#), which has developed more than 500 climate-focused assignments and green workforce modules for students, trained 43 faculty leads from 21 community and technical colleges and seen 10 colleges institutionalize the model and offer annual opportunities for faculty. [Learn more.](#)

*** Nominations Now Accepted for Student Technology Awards –** The League for Innovation is now accepting nominations for the 2025-2026 [Terry O'Banion Student Technology Awards](#) from League Alliance and Board member colleges. The awards honor two deserving students who demonstrate a special talent in technology, passion about moving toward a career in technology, academic excellence, and strong financial need. Winners will receive \$1,000 to be used for education expenses (e.g., tuition, fees) and a plaque commemorating their achievement. [Learn more.](#)

*** Continuing Education Discount for North Staff –** Current and former North faculty and staff are eligible for a 10% discount on all continuing education classes at North. So, if you are interested in painting, fitness, cooking, writing or myriad other topics, now is your opportunity to take advantage of this opportunity. Please see the Sept. 22 email from Myra Kaha, director, Continuing Education and Contract Training for details. The promo code is NSC202510%. For more information about North's Continuing Education program, visit the [website](#).

ON THE LILY PAD

*** Art Gallery Exhibit: Contemporary Artists of Northwest Plateau Tribes –** The NSC Art Gallery is opening the academic year with an exhibition entitled Affinities: Contemporary Artists of the Northwest Plateau Tribes. The exhibit runs through Nov. 7 and brings together a vibrant collection of works by artists who thoughtfully reinterpret the traditional forms, crafts and stories of the Plateau cultural region. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. [Learn more.](#)

*** Fall Student Engagement Fair Oct. 14 –** Tabling opportunities are available at the Fall Student Engagement Fair Tuesday, Oct. 14, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. in the Grove. This is a booth style fair for students to learn more about resources, clubs and affinity groups on campus. Tables should include information about your program or student organization, and how to get involved. [Registration forms](#) should be submitted by Tuesday, Oct. 7. If you have questions, please contact [Ruby Cavallo](#), program specialist, Student Leadership and Engagement.

*** Cozy Reading Party in Library Oct. 30 –** Everyone is welcome to hang out and read together at the Cozy Reading Party, Thursday, Oct. 30, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. on the top floor of the library. Bring your own book or borrow one of the library's and enjoy yourself with a delicious drink. A variety of boba and

fruit teas, plus coffee and hot tea will be available. For more information please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services.



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