

North News Briefs



NOVEMBER 2025

Welcome to this month's North News Briefs. This newsletter is shared each month with all North Seattle College faculty and staff. If you have news to share with the North 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

* **November is Native American Heritage Month** – National Native American Heritage Month is celebrated each year in November. It is a time to celebrate the traditions, languages and stories of Native American, Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian, and affiliated Island communities and ensure their rich histories and contributions continue to thrive with each passing generation. In 1990, President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations, under variants on the name (including "Native American Heritage Month" and "National American Indian and Alaska Native Heritage Month") have been issued each year since 1994. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in October were **Frank Adam**, Student Learning Center (SLC); **Jorge Andrino-Torres**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Paul Blaney**, Workforce Instruction; **Jareen Callender**, SLC; **Jordan Charpentier**, College Access Partnerships; **Gabriel Covarrubias**, Workforce Instruction; **Lukas Dasilva**, Wellness Center; **Sami DeCracker**, Business Operations; **Ari Deering**, Library, Teaching and Learning Center (TLC) and Student Media Center (SMC); **Earl Droppo**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Nelly Garcia-Cruz**, Math and Science; **Sally Gianelli**, Enrollment Services and Outreach; **Emma Goodman**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Eden Gres**, SLC; **Coley Haug**, SLC; **Myasha Hillard**, Student Success Services; **Michael Hu**, Wellness Center; **Christopher Huck**, SLC; **Blair Kenelbayeva**, Wellness Center; **Celina LeTarte**, Business Operations; **Dylan Mark**, Campus Security; **Gabriel McMillen**, SLC; **Luca Montgomery**, College Access Partnerships; **Karen Murphy**, Workforce Instruction; **Matthew Newman**, Math and Science; **Livan Hagi Osman**, Library, TLC and SMC; **Nathan Pfeil**, Workforce Instruction; **Kaitlyn Rich**, Business Operations; **Radiya Robele**, Math and Science; **Roman Robinson**, Workforce Instruction; **Romina Safi**, SLC; **Elizabeth Sanchez**, Wellness Center; **Ryan Scott**, Campus Security; **Jeremy Shaskus**, Workforce Education; **Tomas Silva**, Student Leadership; **Nhu Quynh Truong**, SLC; **Soranat Vadchochai**, Workforce Instruction; and **Travis Walbrun**, Workforce Instruction.

* **Two North Faculty Members Receive GAP Awards** – Congratulations to [Ling Chun](#) and [Shruti Ghatak](#), recipients of 2025 Grants for Artist Projects (GAP) awards from Artist Trust, a nonprofit organization that supports working artists of all disciplines in Washington state. Both Ling and Shruti are part-time faculty members in Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at North. Ling is a multimedia artist from Hong Kong who works primarily in ceramics, hair and neon, using these materials to explore themes of identity, cultural memory and the disappearing visual language of home. Shruti is an artist whose practice bridges large-scale figurative painting and terracotta relief sculpture, exploring themes of mythology, migration and identity. A total of 65 artists in the state were awarded GAP grants, and each will receive \$1,500. See the full list of [2025 GAP recipients](#).

*** Students Return from Vietnam Study Abroad** – This September, two students from North's International Business Bachelor's program, Anna Kharzhevskaya and Yolanda Lopez, had a firsthand look at global trade in action. They recently returned from Vietnam, where they represented the United States on the Washington Colleges Students Trip to Vietnam. The program is part of the Center of Excellence for Global Trade & Supply Chain Management's Supply Chain Study Abroad initiative hosted by Highline College. It combines academic and cultural experiences, with visits to shoe and food manufacturing facilities, wholesale markets, and ports. Students observed operations up close, practiced international business communication, and even traced Washington apples and cherries from production in the U.S. to storage and sale in Vietnam. [Learn more.](#)



*** A Tutor with a Passion for IT** – King Sambonge is a tutor at the Accounting and Business Learning Center. He shared his story recently on the Student Learning Center website. King writes that he has always loved technology, and his passion for IT started “when the sonar touched my mother’s belly.” He started tutoring earlier this year. Born in Angola, and raised and educated in Namibia, King came to the United States to pursue advanced studies and develop a career in software development. [Learn more about King and his approach to tutoring others.](#)

RIBBETING NEWS

*** PEBB Program Annual Open Enrollment Under Way** – The Public Employees Benefit Board (PEBB) program’s annual open enrollment runs through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, November 24. Open enrollment is a time when you can make changes to your health plans and benefit enrollment. The changes you make during open enrollment will take effect on January 1, 2026. This means your current enrollment stays the same through December 31, 2025. Learn more about open enrollment on the [PEBB open enrollment webpage](#) and in the October [For Your Benefit newsletter](#).

*** Please Provide Feedback Via Internal Communications Survey** – The Communications and Marketing team at North wants to know what you think about internal communications. Please provide your anonymous feedback by answering the questions and sharing other thoughts in the open-comment section of the survey. It should take no more than a few minutes. The deadline for giving responses is Friday, November 7. [Link to survey.](#)

ON THE LILY PAD

*** Campus Blood Drive Today at Wellness Center** – The Roy Flores Wellness Center is partnering with the Volunteer Club and Bloodworks NW to host a blood drive on the North campus today, Monday, November 3. The drive runs until 3 p.m. For more information, contact [Megan Valerio](#), director, Wellness Center. You can also use the [online appointment scheduler](#).



*** Virtual Visiting Artist Lecture Today** – The NSC Art Gallery is hosting painter Susan Lichtman for a Visiting Artist Talk today, Monday, November 3, from noon to 1 p.m. She is a figurative painter of domestic spaces, working out of her home studio in southeastern Massachusetts. Susan is a professor of Fine Arts, Emerita, at Brandeis University. To join the virtual presentation you can click on the [Zoom link](#), using passcode: Art.

*** North Talks: ‘Unity in Change’ November 4 in Library Auditorium** – Please join North students, faculty and community leaders as they share lived experiences and insights on “Unity in Change,” Tuesday, November 4, at 1:30 p.m. in the library auditorium. A resource fair will begin at 1:00 p.m. The event brings together new perspectives, fosters belonging and builds dialogue to help strengthen our collective future. A full lineup of students and staff will share their stories. Food will also be provided. Questions? Please contact [Bralyn Beathea](#), director, Student Leadership and Engagement.

* **Boardgame Party November 5** – Play games, eat snacks and try a variety of games from the library's large boardgame collection (all available for checkout) at the Boardgame Party on Wednesday, November 5, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Library Seminar Room (LB2208). For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services.



* **Student Panel on Engagement and Motivation November 5** – What do you need to do to engage students today? What motivates them? These are some of the questions that will be explored in a student panel on how to engage and motivate them. The event will be from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. on Zoom, moderated by Dani Blackman, faculty development coordinator. [Zoom link](#).

* **Yoga in the Library Coming November 13** – Take some time to relax by doing yoga in the library with instructor Trish Root on Thursday November 13, from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. in the top floor of the library. Participants should wear loose-fitting, non-restrictive clothing and plan to remove shoes and socks to optimize joint mobility. There will be movements in standing, seated, and lying down positions, and you can complete the session with a brief stress management exercise. Mats will be provided. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services.



* **Save the Date for Transgender Day of Remembrance** – Transgender Day of Remembrance is Thursday, November 20. There will be district-wide celebrations, including a virtual discussion and in-person opportunities for community and connection on the North campus. Please keep an eye out for event details soon.

* **Art Gallery Exhibit: Contemporary Artists of Northwest Plateau Tribes** – The NSC Art Gallery exhibition, Affinities: Contemporary Artists of the Northwest Plateau Tribes, concludes Friday, November 7. Don't miss this exhibit, which 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](#).

PUDDLE JUMPING

* **Celebrate Native Heritage Month at Speaker Series** – Please join the Seattle Colleges Division for Access, Community and Opportunity and the Inaugural Tribal Government Liaison to the Chancellor in honoring November as Native Heritage Month. There will be events on each of the three college campuses. Please see the October 29 email from the Seattle Colleges ACO for details. The event at North will be Saturday, November 15, from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Roy Flores Wellness Center when the Indigenous Futurists Society and Seattle Colleges ACO present the first ever "Indigenous Futurisms Seattle." Artists, musicians, dancers, cosplayers, fashion designers and models, architects, and vendors will perform and display their work. For more details and participation opportunities, please see the [event website](#).

* **Mindful Meditation Sessions Continue through December 8** – All Seattle Colleges students and employees are invited to participate in Mindful Meditation sessions via Zoom every Monday through December 8. The sessions are from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. The meeting ID is 994 361 6626, and the passcode is 715567. For questions and comments, please reach out to the Mindful Meditation Team of [Kelli Murphy](#) or [Patricia Naylor](#).



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