

# North News Briefs



## DECEMBER 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](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

\* **December is National Giving Month** – With the theme of 'December Giving Makes Us Human,' this month is set aside to recognize citizens who go above and beyond to meet the unmet needs of society, in all sectors including human, environmental, educational, health and public. National Giving Month, also sometimes called Month of Giving, aims to celebrate the fact that people overall are a generous sort, and that those in the nonprofit sector are doing their best to make the world a better place! [Learn more.](#)



### TREE FROG TIDBITS

\* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in November were **Fatima Adam**, Workforce Instruction; **Asma Begum**, Student Services; **Jude Charaf**, Student Learning Center (SLC); **Jeremy Clements**, Roy Flores Wellness Center; **Robin Dowdy**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AH&SS); **Macarena Fernandez**, SLC; **Katie Gervasi**, Student Success Services; **Halonna Gilbert**, College Access Partnerships; **Isabella Hughes**, AH&SS; **Jonah Israel**, Facilities and Plant Operations; **Jessica Karpilo**, AH&SS; **Dylan Mark**, Campus Security; **Pastoria Rogers**, Workforce Instruction; **Janey Salazar**, Student Services; **Munjid Saleh**, Wellness Center; **Valeria Santiago**, Student Success Services; **Ryan Scott**, Campus Security; **Maria Sheel**, Basic and Transitional Studies; **Deepak Singh**, Workforce Instruction; **Michelle Trickey**, SLC; **Chioma Udeh**, Workforce Instruction; **Debra Waxman**, Workforce Instruction; **Amber Wichtendahl**, Workforce Education; **Kamren Williams**, Wellness Center; and **Rhys Zirkler**, Student Success Services.

\* **Expedia Internship Opens Doors for Computer Science Student** – There are few lovelier spots for a summer internship than the Seattle waterfront campus of Expedia. That was Jacq Horizon's good luck this summer, in between junior and senior years in North's Bachelor of Science in Computer Science program. And the setting was the least of the benefits. [Learn more.](#)

\* **Come Explore Math with this Tutor** – Tim Swanson is a math and statistics tutor at North, and he loves to explore. Born in Houston, he was raised in the Bay Area before earning a bachelor's degree in math from Portland State University. Now he is getting ready to explore a career and do more traveling. In tutoring, Tim said the biggest problems are anxiety and knowledge gaps. "For anxiety, I just listen to the student and validate their experience. For knowledge gaps, I try to teach the concept, or steer them to more comprehensive resources when necessary." [Learn more.](#)

### RIBBETING NEWS

\* **Sen. Murray Holds Press Roundtable Event on DOE at North** – North hosted a [roundtable discussion](#) on November 21 led by U.S. Sen. Patty Murray to address proposals that would disrupt the core and essential services of the Department of Education. North President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas participated as one of the panelists, along with Gina Topp, president, Seattle Public Schools; Melinda Dyer, retired state coordinator, McKinney-Vento Act; Rachel Gittleman, president, AFGE Local 252,

representing U.S. DOE employees; and Ann Simonson, Seattle-area mother of a daughter with disabilities. The event was covered by several local media outlets. [Learn more.](#)

**\* Electronics Networking Event for Students and Local Employers** – Representatives from local industry participated in a networking event for Electronics students at North on November 19. Students engaged with employers to learn about their organizations, the roles currently in demand that align with the Electronics program at North, and the associated qualifications. The event also provided students with valuable experience communicating their knowledge and skills in a professional setting. Following the event, employers shared overwhelmingly positive feedback regarding the quality of North's students and the strong alignment between the Electronics program and current workforce needs.

**\* New North Star Student Food Pantry Open** – The North Star Student Food Pantry is open and available to help students experiencing food insecurity. North students experience a higher level of food insecurity than the national average. Studies have shown that students need to be fed healthy food on a regular basis to succeed in the classroom. Located in College Center room 1452, students may shop once per week Monday through Thursday. There are a variety of nutritious options as well as hygiene articles available for all enrolled students.

**\* Entrepreneurship Program Receives Funding** – North was selected to receive approximately \$500,000 for the continuance and expansion of its entrepreneurship programs. This funding was stewarded by the Seattle Colleges Foundation and is granted by the generosity of an anonymous donor. Funds will allow the entrepreneurship programs to expand current partnerships, increase program offerings, and innovate with the opening of a Business and Technology Accelerator and the implementation of an intensive six-month program (Launch and Succeed as an Entrepreneur), which can result in impactful entrepreneurial solutions for Seattle Colleges district and the region.

**\* North Hosts Seattle Public Schools CCLCs** – North hosted Seattle Public Schools (SPS) Career Connected Learning Coordinators (CCLCs) for a professional development day on November 5. It featured presentations and tours of several Workforce Instruction programs, including Early Childhood Education, Business and Accounting, Information Technology and Computer Science, Pharmacy Technician, and Electronics. CCLCs teach career exploration courses at the high school and help connect high school teachers with career information and postsecondary training opportunities. Hosting the CCLCs on campus increases awareness of NSC's workforce focused programs while building ongoing partnerships with staff at each SPS high school to support future outreach efforts.

**\* Blood Drive a Success, Next Drive in February** – The November 3 blood drive at the Roy Flores Wellness Center was a success as 30 people from North came out and donated. This generosity helps save lives and shows the power of caring in our campus community. Stay tuned for the next blood drive, which will be on February 26.

**\* Cold and Flu Season is Here: Let's Stay Healthy Together** – This time of year often brings an uptick in respiratory illnesses like flu, RSV (respiratory syncytial virus) and the common cold, and we all play a role in keeping our campus and each other healthy. To learn more about some simple ways to help stay well – and keep others staying well in the process – Human Resources Director Darlene Mendoza shared some tips from [Public Health – Seattle & King County](#). Please see her November 12 email for more.

**\* North Awarded Five Scholarships from NASA Space Grant** – North is part of the [Washington State NASA Space Grant Consortium](#). As part of this grant, five \$2,000 scholarships will be awarded by a committee of physics instructors to science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) students at North for the half-year starting spring quarter 2026. Awards will be disbursed by the end of winter quarter 2026. The scholarships encourage students to participate in undergraduate research and extracurricular STEM projects as part of their preparation for transferring to four-year institutions. Not only do the scholarship students complete their STEM degrees at four-year

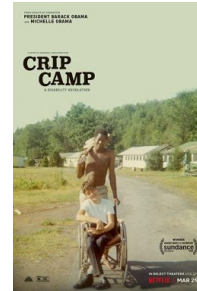


**WASHINGTON  
SPACE GRANT**

institutions, but they also are employed at many local high-tech firms, such as Blue Origin, Aerotek and Johnson Controls. This is the sixth year NSC has awarded these scholarships. For more information, please contact [Tracy Furutani](#), faculty member, Math and Science.

### ON THE LILY PAD

**\* People with Disabilities Day Film Screening December 3** – As part of People with Disabilities Day, you are invited to a screening for the film, “Crip Camp: A Disability Revolution,” Wednesday, December 3, from noon to 3:00 p.m. The screening will be in the library auditorium from noon to 2:00 p.m., followed by discussion and lunch in the library seminar room (LB2208) from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Join others to learn about the teen summer camp that sparked a youth revolution, followed by a reflective discussion with lunch. To request accommodations for the event, please reach out to [ds@seattlecolleges.edu](mailto:ds@seattlecolleges.edu). Please RSVP [here](#). For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), program specialist 4, Library, Teaching & Learning Center, and Student Media Center.



**\* North Seattle Symphonic Band Concert December 7** – The North Seattle Symphonic Band will present their fall quarter concert, *Whimsy and Wonder*, Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 p.m. in the Library Auditorium. The program will feature a composition titled, “Bugs” by Roger Cichy, which explores the musical personalities of various crawling creatures. Other works will include “Slava” by Leonard Bernstein, “Fuge a La Gigue” by J.S. Bach, and “Carnaval” by Julie Giroux. The band has met at North for 55 years and is comprised of community members and students. There is a suggested donation of \$20, but any amount is appreciated and not required to attend.

**\* Help Create the Ultimate Finals Survival Kit** – A collaborative effort between the Roy Flores Wellness Center, Counseling, the Library, the Student Learning Center, and RFCW Student Leadership is seeking your help in creating the ultimate finals survival kit for North students. The team is looking for small, useful, or comforting items. [Help fill the box by December 8!](#)

**\* New Exhibition in NSC Art Gallery** – The NSC Art Gallery is pleased to offer a new exhibition called “SUSTENANCE: Interweaving Food & Identity” through January 16, 2026. The artists in SUSTENANCE use food as a visual and conceptual language to question how cultural identity is preserved, transformed and represented. Together, their works support a discussion of the politics of identity, reminding us how deeply tied food is to who we are. The gallery is open Monday through Thursday, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Friday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. [Learn more.](#)

**\* Fall Quarter CE Student Concerts Set for December 9 & 10** – Two fall quarter Continuing Education student concerts are coming on Tuesday, December 9, and Wednesday, December 10, in the library auditorium. The first is a vocal performance accompanied by the Jazz Ensemble at 8:00 p.m. on December 9, directed by Gina Funes and Fred Radke. The second concert is the Jazz Ensemble at 8:00 p.m. on December 10, directed by Fred Radke. Both events are free.

### PUDDLE JUMPING

**\* Commencement 2026 Date Set for June 18** – Seattle Colleges [Commencement 2026](#) is scheduled for Thursday, June 18, at the University of Washington’s Alaska Airlines Arena. Like this past year, there will be two sessions: one in the late afternoon and another in the early evening. Exact ceremony times will be announced soon. For now, please mark your calendar and plan to attend. If you want a taste of what’s in store for 2026, watch the [Commencement 2025 highlight video](#).

**\* Seattle Colleges Represented at Filipino Community of Seattle Gala – North and the Seattle**

Colleges were well represented at the Filipino Community of Seattle's 90th Anniversary Gala November 1 at Hyatt Regency Lake Washington. For 90 years, the Filipino Community of Seattle has been a galvanizing force and a cultural touchstone for thousands of Filipino/Filipinx Americans throughout the Puget Sound region. Among the attendees from North and Seattle Colleges were (pictured from left) Dr. Honorio Todino, North faculty; Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, Seattle Colleges chancellor; and Florentino (Tino) Ubungen, North registrar.



**\* 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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