

# North News Briefs



**MARCH 2026**

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

\* **March is Women's History Month** – Every year, March is designated Women's History Month by presidential proclamation. This month is set aside to honor women's contributions in American history. It started as a week-long celebration, and organizers selected the week of March 8 to correspond with International Women's Day. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the week of March 2-8 as National Women's History Week, saying, "From the first settlers who came to our shores, from the first American Indian families who befriended them, men and women have worked together to build this nation. Too often the women were unsung and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed. But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well." [Learn more.](#)



## TREE FROG TIDBITS

\* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in February were **Naomi Allwein**, Business Operations; **Aly Arismendy**, Workforce Instruction; **Kelly Azevedo De Souza**, Math & Science; **Erkhes Bayasgalan**, College Access Partnerships; **Jill Borlaza**, College Access Partnerships; **Jennifer Buffington**, Workforce Instruction; **Oumar Camara**, Library, Teaching and Learning Center & Student Media Center; **Jordan Charpentier**, Business Operations; **Eunae Cho**, Workforce Instruction; **Gema Ebanks**, College Access Partnerships; **Sumaya Elmi**, Business Operations; **Ulziinyam Enkh Amar**, College Access Partnerships; **Finley Farmer**, Student Learning Center; **Emily Ferwerda**, College Access Partnerships; **Niloufar Fozouni**, Math & Science; **Perla Garcia**, Workforce Instruction; **Alexandra Gowdy**, Workforce Instruction; **Zachary Harvey**, Student Learning Center; **Brian Hooks**, Workforce Instruction; **Jee-Yae Koo**, Workforce Instruction; **Adinew Lealago**, Campus Security; **Selena MacFadden**, Workforce Instruction; **Jacob McMillan**, College Access Partnerships; **Aiperi Momunalieva**, Student Learning Center; **Joshua Monsalvatge**, Student Learning Center; **Luna Piper**, Workforce Instruction; **Shkisha Rambo**, Workforce Instruction; **Samantha Ruiz**, Student Services; **Liam Singh**, Student Learning Center; **Lukas Tegegn**, College Access Partnerships; **Lila Thomas**, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences; **Oliver Warlick**, Workforce Instruction; and **Vladislav Zakharov**, Student Learning Center.

\* **Staff, Students Visit Olympia for Postsecondary Basic Needs Lobby Day** – Students from North's Student Leadership and staff members Shannon Thomas, housing resource specialist, and Jeanette Miller, dean, Student Support Services, visited the Capitol in Olympia February 5 to join the Postsecondary Basic Needs Coalition's Advocacy Day to support

students. They met with several legislators, including Rep. Julia Reed, along with a student from University of Washington, and discussed student housing insecurity, the difficulty of finding reliable childcare for students and how the state can support two-year CTC programs. The mission of PSBN day was to advocate for essential student needs such as college support services, housing, childcare, mental health, behavioral healthcare and food security.

## RIBBETING NEWS

\* **North's College in the High School Program Accredited** – North officially received confirmation recently that its College in the High School program has been accredited by the National Alliance of Concurrent Enrollment Partnerships (NACEP). In a press release, the NACEP stated that North is one of seven colleges earning initial accreditation. To earn accreditation, concurrent enrollment programs conduct a self-study, document how their programs adhere to NACEP's 16 standards, and undergo a rigorous peer-review process conducted by a team of representatives from NACEP accredited programs, as well as the members of the NACEP Accreditation Committee. Also receiving initial accreditation among state community colleges was Skagit Valley College. Edmonds College was re-accredited.

\* **North Hosts Inaugural Real Estate Business Case Competition** – North's Real Estate Department successfully hosted its first Real Estate Business Case Competition, the Accessory Dwelling Units Affordable Housing Challenge, bringing together students from multiple academic disciplines to apply classroom knowledge to a real-world housing issue. The competition was developed by Dr. Lyle Crews, Jr., and Mark Potter, and all winning teams received cash prizes in recognition of their hard work and dedication. First place went to Sofia Jun, Susanna Wu, and Ryan Komba; second place went to Paulson Vienmanapun and Kate Vo; and third place went to Jafar Abdulridha, Quang Vo, and Jordan Watley. Reflecting on their success, the first-place team shared that one thing that made them stand out was dressing for the occasion, noting that in business and the professional workforce, first appearance can either make or break you. [Learn more.](#)

\* **What to Do if You Encounter Federal Agency** – Across the district, work is actively continuing to ensure clarity and consistency in our practices related to the possibility of federal agencies showing up on campuses. If you encounter a federal agency – including ICE – stay calm and contact Security at (206) 934-3636. For most situations, reaching out to North's campus security officers will be sufficient and is the appropriate first step. Our security team is trained in responding to these situations and will work directly with federal officers as needed. They will also contact additional college or district leaders when appropriate. Learn more about our ICE Response Protocol on the [Seattle Colleges website.](#)

\* **College President Makes Good on Wager** – After a spirited Super Bowl rivalry with North, Quinsigamond Community College President Dr. Luis Pedraja lived up to his end of the friendly wager. Ahead of this year's matchup, Dr. Pedraja and North President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas agreed to a collegial bet. Whichever president's hometown team lost the Super Bowl, they would wear the winning team's apparel and share the moment on social media. Since Seattle's Seahawks beat the New England Patriots, Dr. Pedraja donned Seattle gear (picked out personally by Dr. Rachel) for a celebratory photo posted across QCC's social channels – and shared extensively on North's. [Learn more.](#)



\* **Congratulations to Chili Cookoff Participants** – North’s third annual Chili Cook-Off is in the books, and congratulations to Ali Al Khuzaim for the first-place entry (beef Texas style), as voted by those who attended and sampled the entries. Second place went to Tania Hino, and third went to Shireen Deboo. Thanks to all who participated in the event – either as competitor chefs or taste-tester voters. Plans are already underway for next year’s cook-off.

### ON THE LILY PAD

\* **Free Screening of ‘The Librarians’ Documentary Set for March 5** – As book-banning sweeps across the country at an alarming rate, brave librarians emerge as first responders in the fight for democracy and our First Amendment rights. The documentary, *The Librarians*, will be featured in the library auditorium, from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. this Thursday, March 5. A discussion with snacks will follow from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. in classroom LB1108. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services.

\* **Nominate Golden STAR Employee of Quarter by March 6** – Nominations are open until this Friday, March 6, for the Golden Star Employee of the Quarter Award for Winter 2026. This is a wonderful opportunity to recognize and celebrate the outstanding contributions and hard work of our colleagues. Any employee can be a nominator and every employee is eligible to be nominated for this prestigious award. [Learn more and nominate someone today.](#)

\* **North Hosts Regional Science Olympiad** – Teams of high school students from the Northwest region of Washington competed at the Regional Science Olympiad Tournament February 21 at North. Science Olympiad is an international nonprofit organization devoted to improving the quality of science education, creating a passion for learning science and providing recognition for outstanding achievement in science education by both students and teachers.



\* **King County Metro Neighborhood Pop-Ups at Opportunity Center** – On the second and fourth Thursday of each month, the Opportunity Center hosts a King County Metro Neighborhood Pop-Up from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone to get a new ORCA card, Regional Reduced Fare Permit, or replace lost or damaged cards, and ask questions about the regional transit system. In addition, it is a chance to provide helpful feedback with Metro planners.

\* **CE Student Concerts Coming March 10 & 11** – Two Continuing Education student concerts are coming to North on Tuesday, March 10, and Wednesday, March 11, in the library auditorium. The first is a vocal performance accompanied by the Jazz Ensemble at 8:00 p.m. on March 10, directed by Gina Funes and Fred Radke. The second concert is the Jazz Ensemble at 8:00 p.m. on March 11, directed by Fred Radke. Both events are free, parking is \$6.

\* **Food Truck on Campus Every Tuesday** – A food truck will be available most Tuesdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the west parking lot, next to the library. For the current food truck schedule, menus, pricing and online ordering, visit the [Washington State Food Truck Association](#).

\* **On-Campus Child Care for North Students** – Did you know North offers on-campus childcare for children between the ages of 18 months and 5+ years? The Child Care Center is a service provided for our community; with enrollment priority given first to North college students, then employees and then community members. The Child Care Center offers a safe and nurturing environment where children will have a positive social experience and participate in age-appropriate learning experiences. Questions? Please contact [Rose Buchanan](#), associate director, or visit the Child Care Center [webpage](#).

## PUDDLE JUMPING

\* **Scholarship Applications for 2026-27 Now Open** – Scholarship season is upon us, so please help get the word out to our students. The Seattle College Foundation is accepting applications for 2026-27 scholarships, and the deadline is Wednesday, March 18. Scholarships range from \$100 to \$5,000. All current and prospective students at North, Central and South are eligible to apply (including DACA, undocumented, international students, and those with a prior degree). [Learn more](#).

\* **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. Please keep an eye on the [Commencement webpages](#) for updated information as it becomes available. 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](#).

\* **Discover Seattle Colleges 2026 Features Online Events, Field Trips** – Discover Seattle Colleges 2026 is scheduled with online events planned for March 9-13 and campus field trips during the months of March and April. The online events will feature program introduction presentations by college faculty, organized by area of study. The field trips are an experiential, program-related activity to bring Seattle Public Schools students to our three college campuses (North, Central and South). Please consider [signing up to participate](#) as a program presenter, host or staff volunteer. And help spread the word by inviting your friends, neighbors and colleagues. The [Discover Seattle Colleges webpages](#) offer plenty of information and promotional materials, including a [shareable flyer](#).



\* **Hazardous Communication and Bloodborne Pathogens Training Sessions** – Several Zoom training sessions for bloodborne pathogens and hazardous communications are scheduled for March. Bloodborne pathogens training is required for any employee who can reasonably encounter blood or bodily fluids in the workplace. Sessions are set for Thursday, March 12, (9:00 a.m.); Wednesday, March 25 (9:00 a.m.); and Tuesday, March 31 (2:30 p.m.). Sign up [here](#). Hazardous communications training is required for anyone at Seattle Colleges working with hazardous materials as part of their jobs. The next session is set for Monday, March 16 (9:00 a.m.). Sign up [here](#).

\* **Mindful Meditation Sessions on Mondays** – Seattle Colleges students and employees are invited to the Mindful Meditation Zoom sessions each Monday through March 16. These sessions are free and led by mindfulness team members from all three campuses. They take

place each Monday from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. To access the Zoom room, use the meeting ID 994 361 6626, passcode: Bliss! or 715567. Contacts are [Patricia Naylor](#) or [Kelli Murphy](#).



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