

North News Briefs



APRIL 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. The content submission deadline is the last day of the month. Please try to keep your submission to 150 words or less.

PONDER THIS

* **April is Arab Heritage Month** – During April, the Arab America Foundation formally recognizes the achievements of Arab Americans through the celebration of National Arab American Heritage Month. Across the country, cultural institutions, school districts, municipalities, state legislatures, public servants, and nonprofit organizations issue proclamations and engage in special events that celebrate the community's rich heritage and



numerous contributions to society. President Joe Biden recognized the month of April as National Arab American Heritage Month in 2021. In 2022, Congress, the U.S. Department of State, and 45 state governors issued proclamations commemorating the initiative. [Learn more.](#)

TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in March were **Ellis Andral**, Student Learning Center; **Emmanuel Ramirez Banda**, Business Operations; **Sade Brown**, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS); **Danny Bryan**, AHSS; **Michelle Cao**, Student Learning Center; **Brianna Chong**, Advising and Student Success; **Jeremy Collison**, Continuing Education; **Kevin Curtis**, AHSS; **William Dougherty**, Continuing Education; **Willy Everly**, College Access Partnerships; **Nova Honeycutt**, Access, Community and Opportunity (ACO); **Kim Klein**, Campus Operations; **Dmitrii Kosenkov**, Student Learning Center; **Dylan Leo**, Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs; **Mo Mohamed**, Campus Security; **Derek Nelson**, Workforce Instruction; **Hoc Nguyen**, Student Learning Center; **Jose Ochoa**, AHSS; **DeeAnna Personius**, ACO; **Hung Phan**, Workforce Instruction; **Onyx Rivas-Torres**, ACO; **Dennis Sharp**, Continuing Education; and **Karina Yu**, Workforce Instruction.

* **Congratulations to Newly Tenured Faculty** – The Seattle College Board of Trustees last month approved three North faculty members for tenure. A big congratulations to Lea Evans, Parent Education; Bo Choi, Art; and Megan Bloomingdale, Emergency Medical Technician and Fire Science, who were all conferred tenure status by the board.

* **ECE Article Published by League for Innovation** – An article on North's Early Childhood Education (ECE) program, authored by Ninderjit Gill, faculty, ECE, and Cedric B. Howard, vice chancellor, Student Enrollment and Effectiveness, Seattle Colleges, has been published on the League of Innovation website. The article is titled, "Advancing Anti-Bias Competency through Cohort-Based Learning and Strategic Partnerships in Early Childhood Education." It discusses how North's Bachelor of Applied Science in ECE is both an academic pathway and a strategic

workforce development initiative designed to meet the needs of Washington state's increasingly diverse early learning sector. [Learn more.](#)

*** NSC IB Students Shine on Global Stage** – North is celebrating a major student achievement as one of its two teams recently advanced to the finals of the 2026 Global Scaling Challenge, an international competition organized by the University of New Mexico. More than 40 higher education institutions from 15 countries participated in the challenge, making this accomplishment a significant milestone for the college, the International Business (IB) Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS) program, and its students. NSC's finals team was composed of junior IB BAS students who have completed only two international business courses, making their advancement to the finals particularly noteworthy. Team members for the finals included Kriselle Bantay, Notahiana Rakotonomenjanahary, Yocelin Santiago, Victoria Rodrigues, and Anna Kharzhevaeskaia. The team was guided by North IB faculty member Dr. Honorio Todino. [Learn more.](#)



*** NSC Student Semifinalist for Cooke Scholarship** – The Jack Kent Cooke Foundation announced that North student Abel Tesfaye is among the semifinalists for its highly competitive Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholarship. The Foundation named 485 semifinalists for the scholarship, which supports the nation's top community college students with financial need seeking to complete a bachelor's degree at four-year colleges or universities. Selected from a pool of more than 1,300 applicants, this year's semifinalists represent 224 community colleges across 37 states. Each was chosen through an evaluation process that assesses academic ability and achievement, perseverance, and leadership. The Foundation will announce the 2026 Cooke Undergraduate Transfer Scholars in May. [Learn more.](#)

*** Wellness Challenge Winners Announced** – Congratulations to the winners of the 2026 NSC Wellness Challenge. In the employee bracket, the Work Life Warriors (Scott Ku, Caroline Pew, and Nausica Zorzi) took top honors, with The Thrive Tribe (Renée Almatierra, Hailey Lee, Brooke Jordan, Abigail Wachter, Veronica Duran Sisk, Meredith Bane, Tania Hino, and Daniel Yzaguirre-Vidaurri) coming in second place. The Work Life Warriors received \$50 Visa gift cards and a quarterly membership to the Roy Flores Wellness Center for spring. The Thrive Tribe received a quarterly Wellness Center membership for spring. In the student bracket, top honors went to Team Diamond (Mona Selim, Emma Goodman, and Shannon Conroy), who received \$50 Visa gift cards and a Wellness Center hoodie. The challenge lasted five weeks with a focus on solidifying habits that prioritize good health.

*** NSC Faculty Member Featured on Artsy Website** – Daphne Minkoff, a part-time faculty member who teaches painting and drawing at North, is featured on Artsy, a leading global online art marketplace. Her works represent "small excerpts of life, a passing glance, a fleeting memory or momentary recollection of place." The site calls her work "a unique balance of the mundane and poetic, abstract and realistic, bucolic and gritty." [Learn more.](#)

*** Students Spotlight: Business Technology Management** – Meet Karlin Krishnaswami and Yesica Paola Romero, former students in the [Business Technology Management \(BTM\) program](#), now offered at North. From data analysis and artificial intelligence to business planning and digital tools, the BTM program helps students grow professionally and tackle

real-world challenges, and it is both challenging and transformative. Karlin calls her BTM experience “uniquely life-changing.” For Yesica, one of the most valuable parts of the program was learning how to turn data into “meaningful insights.” [Learn more.](#)

RIBBETING NEWS

* **NSC Art Gallery Features New Exhibition, *Competitive Edge*** – The NSC Art Gallery welcomes all to its new exhibition, *Competitive Edge*, which centers on sports. The exhibition runs through Friday, May 1. Hours are 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.

* **Debut Author Event Comes to North April 11** – North is hosting a debut author event featuring [Saida Bulhan](#) and her children’s book, [A Song of Her Own](#), a celebration of Somali storytelling, culture and children’s literature. The event is on Saturday, April 11, from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the North Star Dining Room (College Center 1254B). All are welcome, and the event is free. [Registration](#), which includes parking information, is requested in advance.



* **Lifelong Learning Awards Nominations Now Being Accepted** – The Seattle Colleges Board of Trustees is accepting nominations for the 2026 Lifelong Learning Awards. These annual awards are designed to recognize the outstanding employees in our college community. A committee will review nominations and recommend up to four awards to the board: two faculty members (one full-time, one part-time), one classified staff member, and one exempt employee. Recipients will be recognized at convocation in September, receive a grant of up to \$1,500 and be asked to serve on future selection committees for the award. For more information, please see the April 1 email from Toni Stankovic.

* **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](#).

ON THE LILY PAD

* **Evening Gathering at Library Set for April 21** – Calling all evening students! Get to know the library and all it has to offer while enjoying snacks and coffee. The gathering will be on Tuesday, April 21, from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m., in Library Seminar Room LB2208. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#).

* **SDOT Project Planned at N 92nd Street and Corliss Avenue N** – The Seattle Department of Transportation is planning to install improvements at the bus stops located at North 92nd Street and Corliss Avenue North, just south of campus. These stops serve between 50 and 100 people per day on average. The project includes a new sidewalk, raised bike lanes at bus stop locations, and new benches and shelters installed by King County. Construction is expected to take two to four weeks and will occur sometime this summer.

* **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.

* **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

* **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: 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. 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](#).

* **Provide Feedback on City's Northgate Plan** – The City of Seattle has released the Northgate Regional Center Draft Plan, with a public comment period open through Friday, April 10. Those who are interested may review the plan and share feedback on this long-term vision for the Northgate area, which is connected to our campus and surrounding community. [Learn more](#).



* **Voter Registration Drive Training April 21** – On Tuesday, April 21, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., the Office of the Secretary of State will be hosting a virtual voter registration drive training via [Teams](#), where faculty and students can learn about being registered in Washington state and what our election system looks like. You can also learn how to get eligible voters registered and how our state does election security.

* **Employee Assistance Program Offerings** – During April, the Washington State Employee Assistance Program (EAP) is highlighting Cultivating Awe & Wonder through a [new Wellness Wednesday series](#) and curated resources. Rather than adding more to your to-do list, April's theme encourages small shifts in awareness, helping you reconnect with curiosity, notice meaningful moments and find renewed energy in the ordinary. [Learn more](#).



Office of Communications

North Seattle College | northseattle.edu

College Center Building | 9600 College Way North | Seattle, WA 98103

Mike Sprouse, Communications Director, 206.934.7791

Rakhee Phelps, Marketing Manager, 206.934.5681

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