

North News Briefs



MAY 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

* **May is Asian/Pacific American Heritage Month** – Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Heritage (AAHPI) Month is celebrated in May to honor the history, cultural contributions, and achievements of the AAHPI community in the United States. This month features educational events, cultural performances and exhibits recognizing groups from the entire Asian continent and Pacific islands. May was selected as the month of recognition because it commemorates the arrival of the first Japanese immigrant to the U.S. on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad using Chinese labor on May 10, 1869. [Learn more](#).



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in April were **Shafiga Abramova**, Workforce Instruction; **Ubaldo Arellano**, Math & Science; **Mikhailo Darling**, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS); **Paige Gedicke**, Student Learning Center (SLC); **Ruth Hagos**, SLC; **Lorraine Hlungwane**, SLC; **Jacq Horizon**, Workforce Instruction; **Ansley Lacey**, Math & Science; **Siona Larsen**, SLC; **Alexis Lynley**, Roy Flores Wellness Center (RFWC); **Daniel Miles**, AHSS; **Samuel Mueller**, Workforce Instruction; **Alexandra Ouklore**, Workforce Instruction; **Kalyn Owens**, Math & Science; **Lindsey Powell**, Workforce Instruction; **Lily Randolph**, College Access Partnerships; **Deseray Ruiz**, SLC; **Sabah Saed**, Workforce Instruction; **Hazel Samnick**, AHSS; **Lucrezia Tassi**, Workforce Instruction; **Nancy Tran**, Workforce Instruction; **Zach Vanlue**, Workforce Instruction; **Kahlee Webster**, RFWC; **Martin Williams**, Workforce Instruction; and **Adriana Yoo**, College Access Partnerships.

* **Jordan Veniegas Named Golden Star Employee of Quarter** – Congratulations to Jordan Veniegas, student success specialist, AANAPISI, on receiving the Golden Star Employee of the Quarter honor for winter. STARS honors an employee every quarter and one recipient for the year. A committee of staff representatives selects the honoree. Jordan was surprised with the award on April 6.

* **Marle Ethelbah Receives Kay Knox Fellowship** – The recipient of the second Kay Knox Fellowship at the University of Washington Evans School of Public Policy & Governance is none other than North's own Marle Ethelbah. Marle, a recreational specialist in the Roy Flores Wellness Center, is an incoming first-year Master of Public Administration student whose passion for service, community and public policy reflects the spirit of the fellowship. The fellowship supports students pursuing leadership in public service and policy. For Marle, the

fellowship represents not only financial support, but also mentoring and the opportunity to build the skills needed to create lasting change. [Learn more.](#)

*** Trio of North Students Named to All-Washington Academic Team** – Congratulations to Ramon Andres Cazarez II, Kiyesha Goings and Anna Scribner for being named to the All-Washington Academic Team for 2026. This honor recognizes top scholars from Washington state's community and technical colleges. Those named to the team reflect the diversity of the state, maintain high standards of excellence, and contribute positively to the community. Their stories are often inspiring, sometimes surprising, and always reflective of the larger story of the state's community and technical college students. [Learn more.](#)

*** Kiyesha Goings Selected as World Impact Scholar** – Kiyesha Goings, a Project Management student at North, has been selected as a 2026 World Impact Scholar by the Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society. She was picked from a highly competitive pool of applicants and will receive a scholarship in recognition of outstanding achievement and future promise. Kiyesha was also recently honored by being named to the All-Washington Academic Team. Congratulations, Kiyesha!

*** Tina Akinyi Receives WGU Transfer Champion Honor** – Tina Akinyi, director, Belonging and Excellence in STEM (BE-STEM), received Western Governors University's Transfer Champion honor in recognition of her commitment and leadership to improve the transfer student experience. Tina, who recently accepted a position at Pierce College, was presented with the award during a surprise ceremony at North on April 22.



RIBBETING NEWS

*** Raise Some Dough for Parent Education May 2** – The NSC Parent Advisory Council is partnering with MOD Pizza for a fundraiser tomorrow, Saturday, May 2, in support of North's Parent Education program. Order online from the MOD Pizza location at 6010 15th Avenue NW in Seattle using the code MODGIVES25, and MOD will donate 25% of your bill to support Parent Education. [Learn more.](#)

*** NSC, YMCA Explore Potential Partnership** – As President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas recently shared, North has signed a letter of intent (LOI) with the YMCA of Greater Seattle to explore a partnership around a shared-use aquatics and wellness facility on campus, integrated with the Roy Flores Wellness Center. The LOI represents a commitment to study feasibility only; no decisions or financial commitments have been made. An important part of the process will be to learn and build upon similar partnerships the YMCA has with other higher education institutions in Washington state and across the country. [Learn more.](#)

*** Springfest Coming May 28** – Time to start getting ready for Springfest, North's biggest event, hosted by Student Leadership. There will be lots of games, clubs, activities and more. The celebration will be on Thursday, May 28, from noon to 4:00 p.m. in the Grove Courtyard, so please save the date. If you are interested in tabling at Springfest, please sign up by Wednesday, May 6. [Learn more.](#)

*** Employee Appreciation Picnic Coming June 11** – STARS will be hosting an Employee Appreciation Picnic on Thursday, June 11. Time, location, and other details are still to come, but you can count on enjoying outdoor activities, catching up with friends, and sharing a

potluck. There will also be sidewalk chalk and a make-your-own-mocktail station. If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact [STARS](#).

*** Reminder About Using Equal Opportunity Statement** – Any time a Seattle Colleges program or department develop promotional material that can be printed, such as forms and flyers, they must also include the colleges' equal opportunity statement. There are two versions: the approved statement and an abbreviated version when space is limited. For more information, please refer to North's Marketing and Communications [Employee Resources webpage](#).

*** 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

*** State of the Pond Meetings May 4** – The next State of the Pond meetings will be on Monday, May 4, with two options – one at 10:00 a.m. and one at 3:00 p.m. You may join either session to hear updates on the budget and other information. President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas is on medical leave and may not be able to attend, so Kristen Burton, vice president, Administrative Services, will lead the meeting in her place. Please see the Outlook calendar invite from Dr. Rachel for Zoom links.



*** Faculty and Staff Development Day May 5** – Faculty and Staff Development Day is set for next Tuesday, May 5, from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The day kicks off at 11:00 a.m. with a session in the Book Arts & Publishing Studio (Library Room 3101) called “The Future of North Is: Letterpress Participatory Activity.” This in-person session will build upon the tabletop drawing and dreaming activity at last fall's President's Day. The Arts Council invites faculty and staff to print their hopes for North's future. The rest of Development Day features several in-person, online and hybrid sessions for all interested faculty and staff. Please see the Outlook calendar invitation sent April 29 from TLC North for more details.

*** Art & Craft Sale Applications Due May 10** – North's 6th Annual Spring Art and Craft Sale will run in conjunction with Springfest on Thursday, May 28, from noon to 4:00 p.m. The deadline to apply to sell your work in a fun and supportive environment is midnight on Friday, May 10. Please contact [Paula Rebsom](#), program coordinator, Art Department, if you have questions.

*** Retirement Readiness Offerings May 14 & May 28** – Retirement readiness sessions are currently being scheduled for interested employees on Thursday, May 14, and Thursday, May 28, at North. The sessions are 1:1 by appointment only with Jim Mendoza, benefits specialist,

and will be held in Elizabeth Al Khuzaim's office in Human Resources, located in room 2260A on the second floor of the College Center building. If interested, please schedule your session using this [appointment calendar](#).

* **Blood Drive in Wellness Center Gym May 19** – North is hosting a blood drive with Bloodworks Northwest in the Roy Flores Wellness Center gym Tuesday, May 19, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. As an added incentive, if you give, you can enter to win a three-night trip for two to Oahu, Hawaii. To book your one-hour appointment, sign up [here](#).

* **Spring Cozy Reading Party May 20 in Library** – Come hang out and read together at the Spring Cozy Reading Party, Wednesday, May 20, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the top floor of the library. Bring your own book or borrow one at the library, and enjoy yourself with a delicious drink. There will be a variety of boba and fruit teas, plus coffee and hot tea. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services.

* **Find Your Power Stone May 21 at AANAPISI Event** – On Thursday, May 21, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., North's AANAPISI team is hosting a Find Your Power Stone event in the Asian and Pacific Islander Center (CC1360). Whether it's a lapis lazuli, amethyst or tiger eye – or something else altogether – find your stone and learn more about the spiritual connection between gemstones and API cultures.

* **Making Learning & Teaching Visible Symposium June 3** – The 2026 Making Learning and Teaching Visible (MLTV) Symposium will be on Wednesday, June 3, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the World Community Center. If you are a faculty member who would like to have your class participate in this symposium of student learning, please complete the [MLTV participation form](#). For questions about MLTV, please contact [MLTV faculty coordinator Bo Choi](#). The registration priority deadline is Friday, May 15.



* **Plan to Attend Service Awards Celebration June 4** – Please plan to attend the 2026 Annual Service Awards ceremony and celebrate North excellence! This year's event will be held in the World Community Center (CC1456) from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, June 4. See the Outlook calendar event sent by Toni Stankovic, executive assistant to the president, for more details.

* **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 Most Tuesdays** – 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

* **First-Ever Government to Government Summit May 11** – The Seattle Colleges Inaugural Tribal Government Liaison and the Division for Access, Community and Opportunity invites students, employees, and community members to the Seattle Colleges Government to Government Summit on Monday, May 11, at South Seattle College, Jerry Brockey Building, Room A&B. There will be keynote speakers, panel discussions, and words shared by our state tribal leaders and education stakeholders. Breakfast and lunch will be provided as well by Chef Olivia Ford of [Liiv for Flavor](#) (Seattle Colleges culinary alumni). [Learn more and register](#).

* **Reports to Resolutions Training for Managers May 21** – Reports to Resolutions training for managers is set for Thursday, May 21, from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m. (Zoom links provided in calendar invite from Human Resources at district.) This training covers all the material from the standard Reports to Resolutions presentation and outlines Seattle Colleges' mandated reporting responsibilities and the Title IX/EEO process. It explains what behaviors must be reported, why timely reporting is critical for compliance and community safety, and how to respond using a trauma-informed approach that prioritizes care, neutrality, and support. Overall, the session reinforces a culture of accountability, early intervention, and confidentiality to ensure concerns move efficiently and with integrity from report to resolution. After the training, there will be an open Q&A with HR where you are welcome to ask questions on any topic.

* **Commencement June 18 at UW's Alaska Airlines Arena** – Plan to be part of the celebration for the Class of 2026 at Seattle Colleges' shared [commencement ceremony](#), Thursday, June 18, at the University of Washington's [Alaska Airlines Arena](#). Like last year, there will be two ceremonies at 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. These are shared, in-person celebrations bringing together North Seattle, Seattle Central and South Seattle colleges. Much more information is available on the website, so please plan to attend one (or both) of the ceremonies and help congratulate our graduates! Also, if you are interested in volunteering that day, please complete the [sign-up form](#).



* **Mindful Meditation Sessions on Mondays** – Seattle Colleges students and employees are invited to the Mindful Meditation Zoom sessions each Monday through June 15. 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](#).

* **Safety Training Opportunities for May** – Zoom training sessions on bloodborne pathogens, hazardous communications and wildfire smoke are set for May, presented by the district Environmental Health and Safety team. Please refer to the April 2 email from Wesley Wofford for dates, times, and links to sign-up forms.



**NORTH SEATTLE
COLLEGE**

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

[Facebook](#) | [Twitter/X](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#)