

North News Briefs



JUNE 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

* **June is Caribbean-American Heritage Month** – Caribbean American immigrants and residents of Caribbean U.S. territories have a long tradition of contributing to our communities and serving their country. From civil rights activist Stokely Carmichael to Pan-Africanist leader and political organizer Marcus Garvey to author and literary voice Edwidge Danticat, Caribbean Americans step up to challenges across generations. National Caribbean-American Heritage Month in June recognizes the contributions of the Caribbean-Americans to the diversity and broader landscape of American culture. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in May were **Miles Allen**, Workforce Instruction; **Richard Bergacs**, Workforce Instruction; **Kenrisen Handojo**, Campus Operations; **George Mtonga**, Workforce Instruction; and **Elli VanAntwerp**, Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs.

* **North Students Advance to International Literary and Art Competition** – The League for Innovation in the Community College, an international consortium of colleges across the United States and Canada, annually hosts both a student literary contest and a student art competition. Seattle Colleges hosts annual local, districtwide competitions from which students advance to the international level, where they compete with peers from the U.S. and Canada. Four North students earned spots at the international art competition: Mackenzie Fall (second place), Julie Allen (third place), Miyoshi Nishimura (juror's choice), and Alannah Laret (juror's choice); and two North students earned spots in the literary competition: Jesus Herrera (fiction) and Emil Pierce (drama). The Student Art and Literary Awards Celebration for Seattle Colleges will be Monday, June 8, at 12:30 p.m., at Cascade Hall 107, South Seattle College. [Learn more.](#)

* **Dawn Cheung Presents at APAHE 2026** – AANAPISI Grant Manager Dawn Cheung was selected to present at Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) 2026, where she facilitated a thoughtful roundtable on "Struggling with Cultural Identity: What Immigration Generation Am I Really?" Attendees explored the complexities of identifying across different immigration generations, reflecting on how varied migration histories and the evolving meaning of being "American," can shape and complicate personal and collective identities.

* **Daniel Miles New Art Tutor at ABLC** – North's business-tutoring center now has its first art tutor. In May, Artist Daniel Miles started tutoring students at the Accounting and Business Learning Center (ABLC) in ways to liven up their business presentations with pictures or other

graphics. In addition to tutoring, Daniel is a North student pursuing an Associate of Fine Arts degree and a certificate of jewelry design. [Learn more.](#)

*** Benjamin Roberts to Present at HTM Mixer Northwest Conference** – Benjamin Roberts, Electronics faculty member, has been invited to present at this summer's [HTM Mixer Northwest conference](#) in Seattle. The conference provides healthcare technology management professionals with a unique opportunity to gain continuing education credits, explore exhibits featuring the latest innovations and solutions, and connect with peers in the industry. Benjamin will be partnering with Fluke Biomedical and co-presenting with Jamie Spragis on a session focused on the biomed career pathway. The session is titled *“Mastering the Biomed Journey: Skills, Training, and Career Growth,”* and is scheduled for Saturday, August 1, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. The focus will be on how students and early-career technicians can build technical skills, navigate training and certification pathways, and grow within healthcare technology management.

*** Profile: Tinisha Davis Helps Students by Pushing for the Best** – Tinisha Davis is a math and computer science tutor in North's Math and Science Learning Center who is an ambitious student who takes great joy in seeing other students succeed. Like many of those she tutors, Tinisha has struggled at times with her own academic work. This is exactly what attracted her to the idea of tutoring others. [Read more about Tinisha.](#)

RIBBETING NEWS

*** Healthcare Career and Transfer Fair Draws 125 Attendees** – North hosted a Healthcare Career and Transfer Fair on May 11 featuring 28 educational and employer partners, including the Biomedical Equipment, Pharmacy Technician, Emergency Medical Technician programs and advisors. There were roughly 125 attendees with groups of students from Ingraham, Nathan Hale and Middle College high schools, and Robert Eagle Middle School. Several options were available for students to explore, including tours of the Pharmacy Technician and EMT program areas. Additionally, an explore healthcare careers workshop was offered, which included a current biomedical equipment student and two pharmacy students sharing their education pathway. Additionally, middle schoolers were given a tour of the campus.

*** NSC Competition Showcases Student Strategy, Grit and Teamwork** – Entrepreneurial thinking and real-world problem-solving were on full display May 2 at North Seattle College's 2nd Annual International Business Case Competition. The event brought together 31 students from North Seattle, South Seattle, and Seattle Central colleges for a high-energy day focused on strategy, collaboration, and innovation. Teams competed in a full-day entrepreneurship case developed by faculty and centered on Cascadia Wild Seafood Co. Students were tasked with designing practical, forward-thinking strategies to address real business opportunities and challenges facing the company. [Learn more.](#)



*** Fire Science Students Job Shadow with Seattle Fire Department** – North Fire Science students recently participated in a job-shadow experience with the Seattle Fire Department (SFD). The partnership between North and SFD has benefited students by providing them with exposure to real-time operation. Students were able to interact with common tools, learn expectations for an emergency response situation, get advice from SFD firefighters, and gain clarity on the application process. They also had the opportunity to hear from SFD captains and meet the SFD Fire Chief.

* **North Hosts NWIC Site Visit** — In consultation with Seattle City Councilmember Deborah Juarez about serving Native students in North Seattle, the college recently hosted a site visit with [Northwest Indian College \(NWIC\)](#). The visit included a tour of campus with North's Art faculty, highlighting the mural work, and a listening session that included President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, the Access, Community and Opportunity (ACO) department, and, most importantly, North's Native students. North is actively exploring an important partnership with NWIC in its efforts to best serve our Native students and community.

* **Terry O'Banion Provocateur Award Deadline Approaching** – The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Monday, June 22, for the Terry O'Banion Provocateur Award. This honor seeks to recognize individuals who, like O'Banion, use bold, courageous approaches to address systemic challenges in the community and technical college field. Each award recipient will prepare an article on their respective topics, which will be published by the League for Innovation. Award recipients will present their work at the League's Innovations Conference in early 2027. [Learn more](#).

* **Child Care Center Available on Campus** – The NSC Child Chare Center is a service provided for the community, with enrollment priority given first to students, then employees and then community members. Funding support comes from the Associated Student Body in cooperation with parent/guardian fees. Children must be between 18 months and 5+ years, and students must be enrolled for at least five credits at North to receive priority consideration. [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](#).

ON THE LILY PAD

* **MLTV Annual Symposium Tomorrow** – Join your fellow Tree Frogs tomorrow, Wednesday, June 3, at the Making Learning & Teaching Visible (MLTV) annual symposium. The celebration will be from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the World Community Center, highlighting academic excellence, goals, and ways to enhance learning. There will be research, 100-day project, and art and design portfolio presentations; prose and poetry readings; and panel discussions. And, if all that excellence makes you hungry, the Longhorn BBQ food truck will be parked nearby from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. [Learn more](#).



* **Always AANAPISI: A Celebration of Our Shared Voyage** – Remember that MLTV will be followed by *Always AANAPISI: A Celebration of Our Shared Voyage* in the World Community Center, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m., tomorrow, Wednesday, June 3. This event is a tribute to the legacy and impact AANAPISI leaders Dawn Cheung and Jordan Veniegas have built together.

* **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 this Thursday, June 4, from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the World Community Center. This is a time to recognize our faculty and staff for their years of service, honor our retirees, and acknowledge the important contributions from our Tree Frog family to our students and the community. For more details, please see the Outlook calendar event sent by Toni Stankovic, executive assistant to the president.



* **North Seattle Symphonic Band Wraps up Season June 7** – The North Seattle Symphonic Band wraps up their season with its *Beyond the Horizons* concert this Sunday, June 7, beginning at 7:00 p.m. in the NSC auditorium. The band is directed by Jared Sessink and Andy Chapel.

* **State of the Pond Sessions Coming June 8** – Next Monday, June 8, there will be two State of the Pond Zoom sessions with the latest college updates from President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas. You can choose from one of two offerings: 11:00 a.m. to noon or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. The same topics will be covered in both sessions. For the link, please see the Outlook calendar invitation from Dr. Rachel.

* **Next Ribbit & Relate with President's Cabinet set for June 9** – If you are able, please join the next Ribbit & Relate: Q&A with the President's Cabinet, next Tuesday, June 9, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. This is a regular opportunity, after the State of the Pond sessions, to have discussion with this group. You can join in person in the boardroom (southwest corner of the second floor in the College Center) room or via Zoom. Please see the Outlook Calendar invite for more information and the Zoom link.

* **Jazz Ensemble Performances June 9 and 10** – Two Jazz Ensemble Continuing Education events are coming to campus on Tuesday, June 9, and Wednesday, June 10. On June 9, at 8:00 p.m., there will be a vocal performance accompanied by the Jazz Ensemble in the library auditorium, directed by Gina Funes and Fred Radke. On June 10, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a Jazz Ensemble concert in the library auditorium, directed by Fred Radke. Admission to both events is free.

* **Twelfth Annual NSC Continuing Education Student Art Exhibition** – Students in North's Continuing Education program are invited to submit artwork to be included in the 2026 Summer Artworks exhibit. The [entry form](#) is live for submissions, which are due by midnight, Friday, June 26, along with photos of students' works. The opening reception will be held on Monday, July 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. This is a community event, so bring the whole family. For more details about this year's show [visit the art show page](#). Please share this information with students.

* **Employee Appreciation Picnic Coming June 11** – STARS will be hosting an Employee Appreciation Picnic on Thursday, June 11, in the World Community Center, from noon to 4:00 p.m. There will be barbecued hamburgers and hot dogs available, and if you would like to bring a side dish to share, please do so. 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](#).

* **Licton Springs Review Publication Party June 11** – It's that time of year! You are cordially invited to the *Licton Springs Review* 2026 publication party, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 11, in the North Start Dining Room. Join the celebration, which will feature awards, art, and readings by amazing student contributors. There will also be free food, catered by Olive Garden.

* **NSC Juried Student Art Exhibition Runs Through June 17** – The 2025-26 NSC Juried Student Art Exhibition continues through Wednesday, June 17, in the art gallery. The awards ceremony will be on Thursday, June 4, from 4:00 to 5:00 p.m., featuring presentations by select students. The gallery hours are Mondays through Thursdays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Fridays from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

* **5K Run and Walk for Roy Flores Scholarship Fund June 19** – It is time to lace 'em up for a free 5K Run and Walk to benefit the Roy Flores Scholarship Fund. The event is on Saturday, June 13 on North's campus. Event registration and check-in begins at 10:00 a.m., with the run and walk starting at 10:30 a.m. Afterward, there will be an awards ceremony and a celebration fair with a food truck, photo booth, outdoor games, and tabling by North programs and local businesses. Race T-shirts will be available at the event for \$5 each. [Learn more.](#)

PUDDLE JUMPING

* **Commencement June 18 at UW** – 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.



* **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](#).



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