

North News Briefs



JULY 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

* **July is Disability Pride Month** – Originating in the United States to commemorate the passing of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990, Disability Pride Month has evolved from a day of celebration to a month-long event. People with disabilities make up 16% of the world's population, representing all ages, races, ethnicities, genders, sexual orientations, religions, and socio-economic backgrounds. This month, people with disabilities, their identities, their culture, and their contributions to society will be celebrated. Disability Pride Month seeks to change the way people think and define disability, end the stigma of disability, and promote the belief that disability is a natural part of human diversity in which people living with disabilities can celebrate and take pride. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in June were **Charlotte Boyd**, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences; **Erin Cox**, Continuing Education; **Frances Froland**, Childcare Center; **Nova Honeycutt**, Childcare Center; **Kyle Lemon**, Workforce Instruction; **Leslie Liao**, Workforce Instruction; **Michael Martinez**, Workforce Instruction; and **Tuze Torbet**, Workforce Instruction.

* **NSC Celebrates Resilience, Achievement at Commencement** – North honored the Class of 2026 during the Seattle Colleges commencement ceremony June 18 at Alaska Airlines Arena on the University of Washington campus. Some 1,175 graduates completed their programs and earned a degree or certificate during a time marked by significant challenges, including state budget constraints and federal changes affecting community college students. Highlights included remarks by President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas and North's graduate speaker Keenen Allen Ladd (see related news item below). North conferred a total of 1,424 awards this year, including 378 academic transfer degrees, 213 career training associate degrees and certificates, 600 short-term certificates, 177 bachelor's degrees, and 56 basic and transitional degrees. [Learn more.](#)

* **Graduate Keenen Allen Ladd Delivers Powerful Commencement Address** – North's graduate speaker Keenen Allen Ladd, who earned a bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education, delivered a powerful address during the June 18 commencement ceremony at the University of Washington. In his video-recorded message, Ladd reflected on the personal journeys behind each graduate's success. Of his own journey, he shared, "I come to you as a father, an educator, a mentor, and a student who didn't take a traditional path to get here. I

come from community. From people who poured into me, believed in me, and challenged me to become more. My family, my friends, my village – they are the foundation of everything I stand on.” For more, [watch the video](#).

*** NSC Students Awarded NASA Space Grant Scholarships** – North is proud to recognize five outstanding students who have been selected as recipients of this year’s NASA Washington Space Grant Scholarship. Logan Cram, Carolina Gutierrez, Aiden Hunter, David Santucci and George Sidles will each receive a \$2,000 award and the opportunity to present their work at the NASA Washington Space Grant Symposium in September, where scholars from across the state gather to share research and connect with peers and industry professionals. [Learn more](#).



*** Rocketry Club Members Earn High-Power Certifications** – Four members of North’s Rocketry Club earned high-power rocketry certifications during a launch event in Pasco, Wash. in May. Club president Kelly Souza achieved her Level 2 certification, which also required successfully passing a written exam. Fellow members George Sidles, Alisina Salih and Maya Knowles each earned their Level 1 certifications. These credentials, awarded by the National Association for Rocketry, require participants to design, build, launch and safely recover a high-power rocket capable of reaching altitudes between 2,000 and 3,000 feet. [Learn more](#).

*** Graduate Profile: Anna Kharzhevskia** – Anna Kharzhevskia came to Seattle in late 2022 after leaving Russia with her family and traveling through several countries. Starting in North Seattle College’s ESL program with limited English, she went on to earn a Project Management certificate, an associate’s degree in business, and a bachelor’s degree in International Business while maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Along the way, she worked full-time, raised her daughter, studied abroad, volunteered in the community, and completed her PhD. Now an education program manager at Binaytara and accepted into UW’s Executive MBA program, Anna credits North with helping her build a new career, community, and future. [Learn more](#).

RIBBETING NEWS

*** *Se Habla Media* Reports on Spanish ECE BAS Graduation Ceremony** – *Se Habla Media*, an independent, bilingual digital media company, covered last month’s Spanish Early Childhood Education Bachelor of Applied Science graduation ceremony, which was held at South Seattle College. The graduates represented the first cohort for North’s program, which is entirely taught in Spanish. In sharing the news, Annie Garrett, manager, Early Childhood Education, said, “Hats off to Elidia Sangerman, faculty coordinator, and Amor Zarate, student support specialist, for their remarkable work to make our first cohort in Spanish a success ... with many more to follow!” For the YouTube video, watch [here](#). (It starts at the 3:39 mark of the program, and you can use closed captioning for English subtitles.) For the news article, learn more [here](#). (You can use your browser’s translate feature if you wish to read in English).

*** North Seattle College Awarded I-BEST Development and Expansion Grant** – North was awarded a three-year Integrated Basic Education and Skills Training (I-BEST) Development and Expansion Grant totaling \$168,750 from the Washington State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC). The grant will expand I-BEST opportunities in Electronics and Information Technology programs, develop new I-BEST pathways in Emergency Medical Technician and Fire Science, and support the creation of additional academic I-BEST

offerings. The project will increase access and improve student success for multilingual learners, adult learners, and other historically underserved populations while advancing the college's Guided Pathways goals.

*** North Hosts Seattle Colleges Technical Advisory Committee Celebration** – North hosted the Seattle Colleges Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Celebration event "Rooted in Partnership, Blossoming in Impact" on June 2. The event was well attended by North's industry and community partners, and Early Childhood Education was the program highlight. Featured guest speakers included North graduates from the Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education, one of whom now serves on the TAC Advisory Board.

*** Student Awards Ceremony Showcases Student Achievements** – North hosted its second annual Student Awards Ceremony on June 10. Students from various departments, clubs, Phi Theta Kappa (PTK), National Society of Leadership and President's medalists were honored. Nearly 200 students and family members were in attendance and heard remarks from Dr. Rachel Solemsaas, President, and Dr. Claire Peinado, Vice President of Student Services, as well as a moving reflection from Etzon Gutierrez, NSC Student Body President. The event was catered by one of NSC's President's medalists, Kiyesha Goings, who created her own catering business and just graduated as a Coca-Cola scholar and PTK Academic All-American scholar.



ON THE LILY PAD

*** CE Student Art Show Opening Reception Coming July 13** – Works by students in North's Continuing Education program will be featured in the 2026 Summer Artworks exhibit, July 14 through August 13, in the NSC Art Gallery. The opening reception will be held on Monday, July 13, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., with light refreshments and a presentation of the Jurors Awards. This is a community event, so bring the whole family. For more details about this year's show [visit the art show page](#).

*** Child Care Center Available on Campus** – The NSC Child Care 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](#).

PUDDLE JUMPING

*** Seattle Colleges Night at Mariners Game July 21** – The third annual Seattle Colleges Night is coming to T-Mobile Park Tuesday, July 21, when the Seattle Mariners face off against the Cincinnati Reds at 6:40 p.m. There will also be a pre-game social on the Rooftop Boardwalk beginning at 5:10 p.m. This is a chance to mingle with students, alumni, faculty, staff, and other members of the Seattle Colleges community before the game. Pick up a free T-shirt and other fun giveaways while supplies last. Light refreshments will be served. Tickets are in prime 100-level seats with a great view near the first base line and cost \$42.50 each. Get yours by Tuesday, July 7 to make sure you sit with the group. [Learn more.](#)



*** Hazardous Communications and Bloodborne Pathogens Training** – Hazardous Communications and Bloodborne Pathogens training sessions are available this month for anyone who works at Seattle Colleges. Hazardous Communications training is for anyone working with hazardous materials as part of their jobs. It will teach you how to read labels and safety data sheets. It will also go over how to access safety data sheets, personal protective equipment requirements and emergency response procedures for certain chemical spills and other special materials. This training session is on Thursday, July 9, at 9:30 a.m. Sign up [here](#). The bloodborne pathogens training is required for any employee who may encounter blood or bodily fluids in the workplace (i.e., accident or illness). There are several training sessions available this month on July 2, 14, 22, and 28. Learn more and sign up [here](#).

*** Voter Registration Drive Training July 17** – Washington state's midterm elections are right around the corner, and on Friday, July 17, the Office of the Secretary of State will host a virtual voter registration drive training session. This is a great opportunity for faculty, staff, and students to learn about being registered in Washington state and what our elections system looks like. Learn about how to get eligible voters registered, tips for running your own registration drive and how our state does election security. The session will be on [Microsoft Teams](#) from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., on Friday, July 17.



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](#)