

North News Briefs

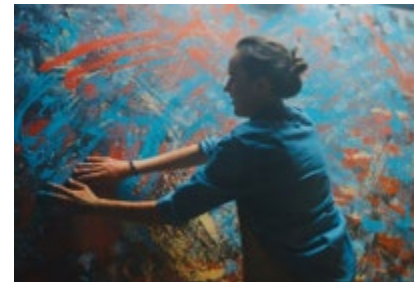


AUGUST 2026

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

* **August is American Artist Appreciation Month** – American Artist Appreciation Month runs throughout August and is dedicated to celebrating the diverse talents and contributions of artists across the United States. According to the National Endowment for the Arts, there are approximately 2.1 million artists in the U.S. across various disciplines. The arts and culture sector contributes significantly to the U.S. economy, generating more than \$900 billion annually and supporting millions of jobs. This month underscores the vital economic role artists play beyond their cultural impact. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in July were **Iphis Aire**, faculty, Continuing Education (CE); **Hope Bailey**, student, Student Leadership; **Khulan Barsbold**, student, Student Learning Center (SLC); **Catherine Borrelli**, volunteer, Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences (AHSS); **Zane Bradley**, hourly assistant I, SLC; **Candida Delgadillo**, work study, Math & Science (M&S); **Isabella DeLanda**, hourly assistant II, Library, Teaching & Learning Center (TLC), and Student Media Center (SMC); **Adrienne Diaz**, work study, College Access Partnerships; **Samantha Forbes**, work study, AHSS; **Otto Franco**, student, Student Leadership; **Lulu Gregg**, student, Student Leadership; **Senay Hagos**, student, Student Leadership; **Onrampa Jones**, work study, Roy Flores Wellness Center (RFWC); **Katelynn Kennemur**, work study, RFWC; **Lindsey Powell**, work study, Library, TLC & SMC; **Victor Maiden**, student, Campus Security; **Lilith Marshall**, work study, RFWC; **Lindsay Mathison**, work study, M&S; **Daniel May**, work study, AHSS; **Sneha Nayak**, student, Student Leadership; **Reynaldo Oliva Jr.**, hourly assistant I, SLC; **Madt Peck**, volunteer, AHSS; **Katherine Pompeo**, hourly assistant II, Workforce Instruction; **Victoria Gomes Rodrigues**, student, Student Leadership; **Alisina Salih**, work study, RFWC; **Amanda Salov**, faculty, CE; **Ursula Stuart**, AHSS (volunteer) and CE (faculty); **Apricity Vespertine**, work study, Student Success Services; **Celes Voorheis**, student, Student Leadership; **Ali Ahmadzadeh Vostakolaei**, work study, M&S; **Emily Vovak**, hourly assistant I, SLC; **Flynn Wilson**, work study, M&S; and **Lila Zeichner**, volunteer, AHSS.

* **Student Futures Reimagined through Speaker Series** – What does career success look like in today's world? For students attending North's Launch & Succeed Speaker Series this year, the answer became far broader than a traditional career path. Hosted by the Business & Accounting Department throughout the academic year, the four-part series connected students with entrepreneurs, industry leaders, and game changers who shared candid stories about

career growth, overcoming obstacles, and finding success through adaptability and innovation. [Learn more.](#)

* **Kelda Martensen to Serve as Interim Dean of AHSS Division** – Vice President of Instruction Pete Lortz announced that Kelda Martensen has agreed to serve as the interim dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Services at North, starting Monday, August 24. Kelda is a tenured faculty member in North's Art Department. Pete will continue to serve as acting dean until August 24. Please refer to Pete's July 7 email for more information.

* **Graduate Profile: Zoe Solaris** – Zoe Solaris began at North in fall of 2023, having not arrived from a traditional path, but from a life already full of chapters: Navy veteran, community advocate, and a first-generation college student searching for a place where her curiosity and creativity could finally take root. She found her way to North with a clear sense of purpose: to build something meaningful at the intersection of design, technology, and community. What she didn't expect was how much the college would give back. [Learn more.](#)

RIBBETING NEWS

* **Watch Technology Institute Featured in Online Publication** – North's Watch Technology Institute (WTI) was featured last month in the online publication, *SJX*. The article, titled "I've Seen the Future of American Watchmaking," discusses the state of watch education in the United States. It highlights the WTI at North, the last remaining full-time public watchmaking program in the country capable of granting a major certification. Program coordinator Jimmy Lin and alum Brittany Nicole Cox are featured in the story. [Learn more.](#)



* **Rocketry Club Soars as Eight Students Earn Certifications** – Eight members of North's Rocketry Club earned high-power rocketry certifications June 14 in Pasco, Wash. George Sidles and Aiden Hunter earned Level 2 High-Power Rocket certifications shortly after receiving Level 1 certifications. Level 2 credentials also require passing a written examination. Ellis Andral, Logan Cram, Aira Okamailuk, Abdullahi Musse, Nikita Filippov and Corey Dixon all earned Level 1 certifications. Awarded by the National Association of Rocketry, high-power certifications require participants to design and build a rocket, successfully launch it and safely recover it after flight. The rockets typically reach altitudes between 2,000 and 3,000 feet. [Learn more.](#)

PUDDLE JUMPING

* **Mindful Meditation Sessions on Mondays** – Seattle Colleges students and employees are invited to the Mindful Meditation Zoom sessions each Monday through August 17. These sessions are free and led by mindfulness team members. 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. If you have questions, please contact [Patricia Naylor](#).

* **Timekeeping Training Session August 27** – Timekeeping training, facilitated by the Seattle Colleges Payroll team, will be held Thursday, August 27, from 2:30 to 4:00 p.m. After the training, there will be an open Q&A with Human Resources in which questions on any topic are welcomed. Calendar invitations have been sent with the Zoom link. You can also refer to the July 13 email from District HR for additional details.



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