

North News Briefs



SEPTEMBER 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

* **September is National Preparedness Month** –

Disasters don't plan, but you can. The entire month of September observes National Preparedness Month. No matter where you live, you are subject to disasters. Natural and man-made disasters affect everyone and cause severe damage and endanger lives. Earthquakes, landslides, wildfires, hot spells, cold spells or windstorms are all natural disasters that can be deadly to people and property. Man-made disasters such as terrorism, crime, power outages, famines or war are just as terrifying as natural disasters. Therefore, preparation is essential for the safety of you and your family. It can also ensure valuable personal possessions are taken care of properly before you lose them. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in August were **Pete Adelman**, student, Student Learning Center (SLC); **Katelin Breck**, hourly assistant I, SLC; **David Hernandez Carreon**, work study, Campus Operations; **Lyr Casper**, volunteer, Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS); **Wendy Gephart**, faculty, Continuing Education (CE); **Quincy Hernandez**, work study, Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs; **Jannah Hinthorne**, part-time faculty, AHSS; **Morgan Maas**, work study, SLC; **Alvin Nance**, faculty, CE; **Cherry Nguyen**, student, SLC; **Deven Shah**, part-time faculty, Math and Science; **Rachel Shields**, part-time faculty, AHSS; **George Sidles**, work study, Math and Science; and **Jason Warren**, faculty, CE;

ON THE LILY PAD

* **President's Day Set for September 23** – Come join your Tree Frog colleagues at President's Day, set for Wednesday, September 23, in the World Community Center (College Center Room 1456). There will be refreshments, time to reconnect with colleagues, and a chance to welcome new employees and student leaders to North. Hear from President Dr. Rachel Solemsaas and Chancellor Dr. Rosie Rimando-Chareunsap, and participate in activities as we focus on our students' success. A light breakfast service will start at 8:30 a.m. and the program begins at 9 a.m. And, like last year, there will be a fun campuswide tour following the President's Day program. Hope to see everyone on September 23!

RIBBETING NEWS

* **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).

PUDDLE JUMPING

*** Wellness Wednesday Series in September** – In September, the [Washington State Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#) is exploring Navigating Complexity through a four-part Wellness Wednesday series and curated resources designed to help you make thoughtful decisions without perfect certainty, reduce mental overload, create helpful structure, and stay grounded when answers are not yet available. Each of the four sessions are offered on consecutive Wednesdays, beginning September 2 at noon, and again at 4:00 p.m. [Learn more and register](#).



*** Safety Training Opportunities Coming** – A host of safety training opportunities are available for Seattle Colleges employees during the months of September and October. [Bloodborne Pathogens](#) training is required for any employee who can reasonably encounter bodily fluids in the workplace. The following dates are available: September 3 (9:00 a.m.), September 9 (2:00 p.m.), September 22 (10:00 a.m.), September 29 (3:00 p.m.), October 8 (10:00 a.m.), October 13 (8:30 a.m.), and October 20 (2:00 p.m.). [Hazardous Communications](#) training is required for anyone working with hazardous materials as part of their jobs. The following dates are available: September 17 (9:00 a.m.) and October 14 (3:00 p.m.). [Wildfire Smoke Training](#) is required annually for any employee who is required to work outdoors when air quality reaches above elevated wildfire smoke level thresholds for PM2.5 (airborne particles with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less). The following dates are available: September 2 (9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.) and October 1 (9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.). Please refer to the August 13 email from Wesley Wofford, associate director, Environmental Health and Safety, for more details.

*** Help with Voter Registration Needed** – The 2026 midterm elections are almost here, and on Monday, September 14, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., the Office of the Secretary of State will be hosting a virtual voter registration drive training, where students and faculty can learn about being registered in Washington state, and what our election system looks like. Learn about how to get eligible voters registered, tips for running a voter registration drive, and dates and deadlines for the November general election. The September 14 training is on [Microsoft Teams](#).

*** Work/Life Resources Offer Practical Support** – The [Employee Assistance Program's Work/Life resources](#) offer practical support for family care, finances, legal questions, daily living, and more – so you can spend less energy searching for answers and more energy taking your next step. In September, in support of Suicide Prevention Month, the EAP Work/Life site is offering tools and resources to help you have conversations that save lives. Learn more about how to talk openly, notice warning signs, start caring conversations, and guide others to get support when they need it. Starting Tuesday, September 15, you can view the on-demand seminar, "Preventing Tragedy: Empowering Supporting Conversations." Log in [here](#) using the Work/Life Access Code, SC.

*** Washington State Advising Summit Coming in October** – Registration is now open for the Washington State Advising Summit, October 26-27, at the Wenatchee Convention Center. Join advisors, counselors, and student support professionals from across Washington to learn, connect, and support student success. [Learn more](#).



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