

North News Briefs



OCTOBER 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

* **October is National Bullying Prevention Month** – Did you know that more than one out of every five students report being bullied? Each October, National Bullying Prevention Month is held to connect communities and join in creating a world that is kinder, more accepting, and more inclusive. Everyone can share their voice to prevent bullying. [Learn more.](#)



TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in September were **Abdulkarim Abdulmajid**, custodian 2, Facilities and Plant Operations; **Luke Anderson**, work study, Student Learning Center (SLC); **Shiho Aoki**, part-time faculty (PTF), Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (AHSS); **Courtney Asher**, student, SLC; **Emily Baumgartner**, PTF, Math and Science (MS); **Kathleen Beahn**, PTF, AHSS; **Asma Begum**, student, Library, Teaching and Learning Center (TLC), and Student Media Center (SMC); **Mirelle Blanchard**, hourly assistant I, Workforce Instruction; **Amara Brinks**, PTF, MS; **Gust Burns**, PTF, AHSS; **Ash Cooke**, work study, AHSS; **Katherine Crane**, PTF, AHSS; **Coriander Chambliss**, work study, Roy Flores Wellness Center (RFWC); **Jonas Crimm**, PTF, AHSS; **Jen-ai DeCano**, PTF, Basic and Transitional Studies (BTS); **Michelle Ruth Frindell**, PTF, AHSS; **Meg Gildea**, PTF, AHSS; **Allie Gmeiner**, work study, MS; **Carolyn Hall**, PTF, AHSS; **Amy Hirayama**, PTF, AHSS; **Nicholas Jackson-King**, student, Student Leadership; **Ellie James**, hourly assistant I, Workforce Instruction; **Kristina Katre**, PTF, AHSS; **Kate Lu**, work study, Business Operations, **Georgia Mason**, work study, Business Operations, **Paulos Mesfin**, work study, RFWC; **Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger**, PTF, MS; **Joe Mintzer**, student, Library, TLC, & SMC; **Tokunbo Olukoya**, PTF, Workforce Instruction; **Satoru Ouchi**, work study, RFWC; **Rebecca Padilla**, PTF, AHSS; **Janith Pewitt**, PTF, AHSS; **Gehrig Pfeffer**, work study, SLC; **Tyler Reames**, PTF, BTS; **Zackery Rhodes**, PTF, AHSS; **Shawn Riley**, PTF, AHSS; **Frankie Rivera**, program specialist 3, Student Services; **Teresa Russ**, volunteer, Campus Operations; **Bea Sauve**, work study, Workforce Instruction; **Ody Ser Od**, work study, Student Success Services; **Pema Sherpa**, student, Student Leadership; **Elizabeth Skourlis**, work study, AHSS; **Rebecka Smith**, PTF, AHSS; **Viola Spencer**, PTF, AHSS; **Ching Tsao**, PTF, MS; **Mirella Espinoza Varley**, student, BTS; **Reid von Pohle**, PTF, AHSS; and **Jasper Wilde**, student, Library, TLC, & SMC.

* **BTM Student Turns Career Growth into New Opportunities** – For Austin Schuoler, returning to school was more than earning another credential, it was about taking the next step in his technology career. While working as a security operations center analyst at Amazon, Austin reached a point where he felt his career growth had stalled. He knew he wanted to expand his skills but wasn't initially sure which direction to take. When he discovered North's Business Technology Management program, he found a program that connected his interests in technology, data, and business. [Learn more.](#)

* **New Food Pantry Coordinator Joins North** – Frankie Rivera started their journey as North's new food pantry coordinator last month and brings a wealth of knowledge on food security, pantry operations and logistics, student employee management, and the community college system to the

role. Frankie comes to North from Whatcom Community College where they supported the TRIO program. Frankie is incredibly passionate about food security and has been studying food systems, as well as working and volunteering in the hunger relief sector for many years. Welcome Frankie!

RIBBITING NEWS

* **North Awarded \$3 Million to Strengthen Health, Medical Programs** – North has been awarded a \$3 million Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP) grant from the U.S. Department of Education, providing critical funding over the next five years to enhance student learning, expand support services, and strengthen workforce training capacity in key health and medical programs. The grant will support capacity-building efforts across three of the college's Health & Medical Programs: Pharmacy Technician, Emergency Medical Technician (EMT), and Biomedical Equipment Technology (BMET). [Learn more.](#)

* **Early Childhood Education BAS Featured in Publication** – North's Early Childhood Education Bachelor of Applied Science program was recently featured in an *EdSurge* publication on the value of bachelor's degrees earned in the field at community colleges compared to universities. In the studies, employers reported viewing the degrees similarly. Alumna and part-time faculty member Aida Rodriguez was interviewed for [the piece](#), highlighting the value of the program in the workforce.

* **Student's Article Published in National HTM Publication** – North biomedical equipment technology (BMET) student Raghbir Singh has published his second national article in 24x7 Magazine, a national publication serving the healthcare technology management (HTM) profession. His newest article, "Making BMETs More Visible Within the Healthcare Team," draws from his education and internship experience to discuss the important role biomedical equipment technicians play within healthcare organizations. Raghbir addresses communication between BMETs and clinical staff, the visibility of HTM professionals, and how stronger collaboration can support equipment service and patient safety. You can read the article [here](#). Congratulations, Raghbir!

* **Financial Aid Develops and Implements Mass Packaging** – North's Financial Aid department has developed and implemented "mass packaging" for North, as well as the Seattle Colleges district. This new development required a heavy lift of research, technical and query development, and patience. With the use of mass packaging, Financial Aid will be able to award hundreds of students within a day. Since the college can award financial aid at an accelerated pace, this will allow North to focus critical human support on helping students navigate through the financial aid process.

* **Star Earns Frog of the Year Honors** – North's beloved mascot, Star the Pacific Tree Frog, has officially hopped to the top. [Jomboy Media](#) recently selected Star as the inaugural recipient of its Frog of the Year award in the Professional Division, recognizing the mascot's extraordinary contributions to the North Seattle community and beyond. Star leapt over some 50 other nominees, including Webby, the Everett AquaSox mascot, and Señor Frog, of bar and grill fame. [Learn more.](#)



ON THE LILY PAD

* **New Calendar and Event Bulletin Board Next to Lily Pad Cafe** – A new calendar and events bulletin board has been created for the campus on the first floor of the College Center building next to the Lily Pad Café. The hope is that it will provide a one-stop shop for events on campus and reduce the number of flyers while increasing event visibility. The bulletin board will be maintained on a weekly basis by the Student Navigation and Advocacy Coalition, as well as student employees. If you would like to add an event or resource to the bulletin board, please refer to the instructions in the September 21 email from Tristinn Williams, assistant director, First-Year Experience. If you have specific questions about the bulletin board, please contact [Jax Mello](#), program specialist 3, Student Learning Center.

* **On-campus Child Care Available** – Did you know North offers on-campus child care for children between the ages of 18 months and 5-plus years? The NSC Child Care Center is a service provided for

our community with enrollment priority given first to NSC students, then employees, and then community members. The Child Care Center offers a safe and nurturing environment where your child will have a positive social experience and participate in age-appropriate learning experiences. For more information, please contact Rose Buchanan, associate director, NSC Child Care Center, Rose.Buchanan@SeattleColleges.edu, or visit northseattle.edu/child-care.

*** Library Evening Party October 6** – Calling all evening students! Get to know the library and all it has to offer while enjoying pastries and coffee. It will be from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, October 6, in the Library Seminar Room (LB2208). For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services. Please share this information with your evening students.

*** Tabling Registration Deadline is October 7 for Fall Student Engagement Fair** – The Fall Student Engagement Fair is set for Wednesday, October 14, from noon to 3 p.m., in the Grove. This is a booth-style fair for students to learn more about clubs, community collectives, and resources on campus. Tables should include information about your program and how to get involved. The last day to register for tabling is Wednesday, October 7. [Learn more](#).

*** Proposals Due October 13 for Faculty and Staff Development Day Presentations** – Faculty and Staff Development Day is set for Tuesday, October 27, and proposals for presentations are wanted. If you would like to organize a workshop, presentation, or community event with the Teaching and Learning Center staff, please submit this [proposal form](#) by Tuesday, October 13. A survey conducted last year found that the North community is interested in the following topics: culturally inclusive pedagogy, artificial intelligence, accessibility, active learning, and neurodiversity. [Learn more](#).

*** Security Team Meet and Greet October 14** – Stop by the Library Seminar Room (LB2208) from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, October 14, to meet the campus Security team. This is an opportunity to get to know the team, ask questions, and learn more about their work. You can drop in any time during the hour.

*** Earthquake Drill Coming October 15** – On Thursday, October 15, at approximately 10:15 a.m., North will join the [Great Washington Shakeout](#), when thousands of people throughout the state will participate in earthquake drills at work, school or home. At North, we will utilize the RAVE alert system, which will notify users by phone, email, and text. The drill alert will be sent at approximately 10:15 a.m. (Please note that you may not receive the alert at the exact same instant as others.) Wherever you are at that time, you are asked to practice [Drop, Cover and Hold On](#) as if there were a major earthquake occurring at that very moment, then remain in this position for at least one minute. An all-clear RAVE alert will be sent shortly afterward using the same modes of communication (phone, email, and text) to signify the end of the drill. For more information on emergencies, please visit the Seattle Colleges [Emergency web page](#).



*** Library Voter Registration Drive and Film Screening October 21** – Get registered to vote in the upcoming election with volunteers from Communities for Our Colleges, then learn about the history of voting rights in the United States by watching selections of the documentary, Let the People Decide. The event is in the Library Auditorium (LB1207) on Wednesday, October 21, with the registration drive running from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., and the film screening from noon to 2:00 p.m. For more information, please contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services. Please share this information with your students.

*** Voting Rights Conversation and Coffee October 22** – Join in a casual discussion about voting rights with your peers and select faculty while enjoying some coffee and piroshky, Thursday October 22, from noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Library Seminar Room (LB2208). For more information, please

contact [Willa Sweeney](#), administrative assistant, Library Services. Please share this information with your students.

* **‘Conditions Allow’ Exhibition in NSC Art Gallery** – A group exhibition called Conditions Allow is now open in the NSC Art Gallery. It features artists who take playful and inventive approaches to materials, exploring how their qualities, limitations and possibilities shape the creative process. The exhibition will be on view through November 6. [Learn more](#).

PUDDLE JUMPING

* **Funding Navigation Helps Students Achieve Academic Goals**

– Helping students develop a plan to pay for college, understand their eligibility and next steps, complete funding applications, and find and apply for scholarships is the work of the Funding Navigation team. You may have seen their table at President’s Day, and if you did, you know that Funding Navigation is a Title III-grant funded program that helps students achieve their academic goals by connecting them to funding options. North’s navigator is Sean Coveny, who can be found in the College Center building, room 2550. If you know of a student who can use Funding Navigation’s services, use Starfish referrals to let them know about students who need help. [Learn more](#).



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](#)