North News Briefs

NOVEMBER 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



* **November is Native American Heritage Month** – National Native American Heritage Month is observed each November and honors the rich histories, diverse cultures, and contributions of more than 574 federally recognized tribes in the United States. In addition, the Friday following Thanksgiving is designated as Native American Heritage Day. This month's observance is not only about recognizing the past, but it also celebrates a living and evolving cultural landscape, often described as a "beautiful mosaic" of traditions, languages, and identities that remain deeply connected to the land. It is also a time to look toward the future, supporting Native youth, uplifting tribal communities, and encouraging meaningful allyship rooted in respect, cultural preservation, and the protection of Native lands and lifeways. Learn more.

TREE FROG TIDBITS

* **Welcome to North!** Joining North in October:

- **Access, Community and Opportunity** – Mercy Wanjiku, work study.
- **Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences** – Sherie Lynn Betances-Vela, part-time faculty; Jesse Cavalari, part-time faculty; Blake Cullen, volunteer; and Marine Sturges, volunteer.
- **Business Operations** – Michael Do, student; Sami Elkhamri, work study; Nadia Pappas, work study; Damian Pierce, work study; and Varsha Satheesh, work study.
- **Financial Aid and Veteran Affairs** – Olatunji Ajala, volunteer, and Haley Hartzo, work study.
- **Human Resources** – Javonnie Adams, work study.
- **Math and Science** – Nicel Mohamed-Hinds, part-time faculty.
- **Student Leadership** – Sarnai Narmandakh, student.
- **Student Learning Center** – Gudina Biftu, work study, and Ted Harris, work study.
- **Workforce Instruction** – Corban Burstedt, work study; Alexis Kim, hourly assistant I; Kayla Rieck, hourly assistant I; Renee Schlueter, student intern volunteer; and William Schwab, volunteer.

* **New Associate Dean of Workforce Instruction Joins North** – Today is the first day at North for Dr. Tanya Powers, the new associate dean of Workforce Instruction. She is a higher education leader, educator, and advocate with more than two decades of experience advancing student success, workforce development, and equitable access to education. Dr. Powers co-founded Native Student Success Summits, heled establish the South King County Native Coalition, facilitated the hiring of Native faculty, and led efforts that resulted in Highline College's adoption of Indigenous Peoples Day. Throughout her career at Highline and Seattle Central College, she has developed innovative educational pathways, secured grant funding, created new bachelor's degree programs, strengthened workforce education partnerships, and guided institutional changes through strategic planning and accreditation initiatives. Welcome to North, Dr. Powers!

* **Students Earn Second Place at Regional Project Management Competition** – A team of North Seattle College and Green River College students earned second place at the Project Management College Bowl, held October 9 at Seattle University as part of the Project Management Institute (PMI) Puget Sound chapter's Professional Development Days 2026. The second-place finish earned the team a free seat in the Certified Associate in Project Management (CAPM) boot camp. The six-student team included North students Hillary Simms, Shekaba Aryan, Yocelin Santiago, and Victoria Gomes, along with Green River students Bri Ponce and Beza Legesse. The students were recruited from project management courses taught by Nausica Zorzi, faculty member in Business and International Business at North. Learn more.



* **Building the Future of Early Learning in Five Languages** – A few months ago, 26 preschoolers from El Centro de la Raza's José Martí Child Development Center boarded a Link light rail train alongside 10 parent chaperones. It was the kids' first field trip. They were going to watch their teacher, Ms. Diana, graduate from college at Alaska Airlines Arena on the University of Washington campus.
Diana Ramirez earned a Bachelor of Applied Science in Early Childhood Education from North. With the new degree she's now equipped to be even more effective as a leader and teacher at José Martí, known for dual-language classrooms where Spanish and English share the stage. North is a pioneer in training early-learning educators from a wealth of cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Courses are offered not only in English but also Spanish, Arabic, Somali, and Oromo. Learn more.

* **Endowed Scholarship Honors Legacy of Brian Palmer** – Thank you to everyone who joined in the recent Celebration of Life for Brian Palmer, dean of Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences at North, who passed away earlier this year. A video recording of the event is available here. The Instruction division is raising money for Seattle Colleges through an endowed scholarship fund to honor Brian's legacy. You can learn more on the Seattle Colleges Foundation's JustGiving website.

RIBBITING NEWS

* **Faculty Members Launch Accelerator Program for Students** – A team of North faculty members from the Business and Business Technology Management programs soft launched the Launch and Succeed Accelerator. The program connects student consultants, faculty mentors, and local businesses to solve real-world business challenges. During summer quarter, the Accelerator matched three faculty coaches and seven student consultants from the International Accounting, International Business, Computer Science and Application Development bachelor's degree programs to local small business clients, and completed three projects in marketing, bookkeeping, and AI quality assurance operations. The projects transform classroom knowledge into practical solutions that create value for both students and the community.

* **Entrepreneurship Programs Awarded $375K** – North's Entrepreneurship programs were recently awarded $375,000 for embedding applied AI into the Launch and Succeed Accelerator, enabling student founders to build, test, and scale ventures more efficiently and competitively, and packaging a replicable, plug-and-play "AI & Entrepreneurship" curriculum, positioning North's hub as a resource for best practices.

* **Expedia Hosts Application Development BAS and Computer Science BS** – Since 2025, Expedia has hosted 20 Application Development Bachelor of Applied Science and Computer Science Bachelor of Science students from North per year in a hybrid training program known as Expedia Career Exploration Program (CEP). The program helps students navigate the job market, prepare a resume, and practice interviews, along with learning about corporate culture and communication. The training culminates in an opportunity for students to apply for internships. In Summer 2025, NSC had two interns and in Summer 2026 there were three. Two of those interns were offered full-time return positions, starting in June 2027. Expedia has renewed the program for 2027.

* **Business Office Collaborates with IE to Monitor Enrollment Trends** – North's Business Office and Office of Institutional Effectiveness continue to work closely together to monitor enrollment trends. These trends will allow North to better plan spending throughout this academic year, especially as any increase or decrease in enrollment and the subsequent revenues will be strongly connected to changes in our expense for part-time faculty.

* **Allocation Funding Update** – State allocation funding at North is adjusted monthly, whenever the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) sends updated totals to the Business Office. The most recent allocation includes an additional $90,000 for "Pathway to Practice: Strengthening the Pharmacy Technician Pipeline."



* **Take the 2026 Seattle Commute Survey** – If you haven't already done so, please complete the 2026 Seattle Commute Survey for North Seattle College. The survey takes about 10 minutes, and the deadline is Friday, November 13. Conducting the survey is a requirement of the state's Commute Trip Reduction law. It is important because findings will help North, the City of Seattle, and the State of Washington better understand commuting trends, greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, transportation choices, and behavior motivation.

ON THE LILY PAD

* **Seattle Promise Info Session Set for November 3** – This quarter marks the first full quarter in which Seattle Promise is funded by the renewed Families, Education, Preschool, and Promise Levy. An info session will be held from noon to 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, November 3, in the Noth Star Dining Room to bring employees up to speed on changes to the Seattle Promise program, explain new investment areas, and invite you to engage further with Seattle Promise. Light refreshments will be served. Please see the October 22 calendar invite email from Melody McMillan, associate vice chancellor, Seattle Promise, for more details.

* **Emergency Preparedness Training November 3** – You are invited to join Michelle Valint, occupational safety and health manager, on Tuesday, November 3, from 10 a.m. to noon, for a training session on how to be prepared for an emergency on campus. This is an in-person session, and will be held in the Instruction Building, room 2412C.

* **Cozy Reading Party November 4** – Come hang out and read together at the Cozy Reading Party, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Wednesday November 4, on the top floor of the Library. Bring your own book or borrow one from the Library and enjoy yourself with a delicious drink. A variety of boba and fruit teas will be served, plus coffee and cocoa. For more information, please contact Willa Sweeney, administrative assistant, Library Services.

* **Zoom Panel on Engaging and Motivating Students November 4** – To help center student voices in faculty professional development, a panel of students will share how faculty can be culturally responsive in their classrooms. What do students think it means to be culturally responsive? Where have they seen faculty succeed in being culturally responsive? Where have they fumbled? What would they like to see more of from their instructors? The panel will be from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m., on Wednesday, November 4, and will be facilitated by Dani Blackman, faculty development coordinator. Zoom link.

* **Vendors Wanted for NSC Art & Craft Sale** – The NSC Art Group and NSC Art Department are hosting the 28th Annual Fall Art & Craft Sale on Tuesday, December 1. This is a great opportunity to gain experience for selling your work at art and craft sales in a fun and supportive environment. There is no cost to participate. The application deadline is midnight on Sunday, November 16. Learn more.

* **Winter Quarter CE Registration Opens November 16** – Winter quarter registration for Continuing Education courses at North opens Monday, November 16, and all current and former North staff qualify

for a discount on any CE class. Simply use the promo code NSC10%2026, which is valid through December 31. Learn more.

* **Student Artwork Available for Placement** – Each June, North's Art Council purchases student artwork from the NSC Art Gallery Student Show for its collection. The pieces are initially displayed in the President's Office for the next academic year, then placed in public areas around campus. To help spread the art around campus in a more equitable and far-reaching manner, a form has been created for those interested in having artwork displayed in their areas. Please submit this form by Tuesday, December 1, if you or your department are interested. The Art Council will review the submissions and notify those selected by early February with the intent to hang the artwork during winter quarter. If you have questions, please contact the Art Council's Amanda Knowles.

PUDDLE JUMPING



* **PEBB Program's Open Enrollment Deadline is November 23** – The Public Employees Benefits Board (PEBB) Program's annual open enrollment is underway and continues through 11:59 p.m. on Monday, November 23. This is the time to make changes to your health plans and benefit enrollment. Changes you make go into effect January 1, 2027. This is your chance to change your medical, dental, and vision plans; add or remove dependents; attest to the spouse or state-registered domestic partner coverage premium for 2027 (if required); enroll or reenroll in the Flexible Spending Arrangement (FSA) Limited Purpose FSA, or Dependent Care Assistance Program (DCAP) through Navia Benefit Solutions; enroll in medical coverage if you previously waived coverage; or waive your medical coverage if you are enrolled in another employer-based group medical plan, TRICARE, or Medicare Part A and Part B. Learn more.

* **Celebration of Life for Donald Trimble on November 15** – Donald M. Trimble, a longtime professor of Economics and Political Science who was a foundational part of Instruction during his time at North, passed away last month. A celebration of life to honor his memory and decades of service will be held Sunday, November 15, at Haller Lake United Methodist Church beginning at 2:00 p.m.

* **Free Speech Zones Identified at Seattle Colleges** – North Seattle College has identified a designated free-speech zone at the main campus entrance plaza, creating a dedicated space for demonstrations, rallies, and other First Amendment activities. The location supports open expression while helping maintain safe access to campus buildings and minimizing disruption to classes and college operations. Free-speech activities must comply with Seattle Colleges policies and applicable laws, and may not obstruct pedestrian traffic, create safety hazards, or interfere with educational activities. Each of the three Seattle Colleges has now identified free-speech zones. This initiative reflects Seattle Colleges' commitment to fostering civic engagement, respectful dialogue, and the free exchange of ideas on campus. Learn more.

* **Mindful Meditation Sessions Offered Every Monday** – Free Mindful Meditation Zoom sessions are available to all current students and staff, led by mindfulness team members from all three campuses, on Mondays, throughout the quarter. The sessions are from 12:10 to 12:30 p.m. every Monday through December 7. The password is Bliss! and the meeting ID is 994 361 6626. Zoom link.

NORTH SEATTLE COLLEGE

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