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THE HUSKY HERALD

Share Your Story

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Letter From the Editor-in-Chief: Sharing Your Story!

Written by: Keaona Gray-Outlaw
- Editor-in-Chief
October/November 2026

Dear Huskies,

Since a very young age, being able to read or tell a good story has become familiar to us all over time. Through storytelling, we have learned about the world, built imaginary ones, and recognized ourselves and others in what we've read. Without a doubt, it has become necessary to understand storytelling so that we can understand each other's stories and build our own.

It's impossible to deny that every single one of us has a unique story. Whether that be a story of hardship or triumph, change or consistency or disaster or victory, we don't just become familiar with what our story is; we find ways to use this to connect to each other. These connections do more than just build the foundation of how we show up and listen to others. It shapes how we do so for ourselves. With this I ask, what does it mean to know and share your story?

I'd like to present to you The Husky Herald October/November 2026 issue: "Sharing Your Story!". In this second issue of the school year, we spotlight the diverse stories of students on our campus and how these stories shape our understanding of each other and cultivate our place in our shared community. In my own experience, I've found it incredibly important to know and be able to share your story. But to do so, it's necessary that you feel supported and seen by the community you're a part of. Here at UWB, we don't just recognize the different stories we have to share; we provide support and opportunity for those stories to feel seen and heard. In some cases, we recognize parts of our story in others, and it's in that familiarity where we uplift each other and come together when support is needed most.

The Husky Herald newspaper is here for you to express your individuality, share your story and read stories from others! We are dedicated to depicting diverse voices and experiences at UWB. Anyone can submit articles, photography or artwork for review and potential publication through our Link Tree form at any time, which we review on a rolling basis.

Make sure to follow our Instagram page (@husky_herald) and GatherUWB platform where you can receive frequent updates on school events and announcements for our workshops and open contributor applications!

My story, like many others, comes with a number of experiences that have brought me to where I am today. Let this be a reminder that your story always has meaning no matter what it includes, and there are plenty of ways your story can be shared to make an impact and change others!

Cheers,

Keaona Gray-Outlaw

Editor-in-Chief, The Husky Herald

Lighting Diyas to Bring Cultures Together

Written by: Shyamashree Acharya
- Managing Editor
October/November 2026



Image Credit: Unslpash

Diwali is India's loudest and brightest festival, yet as I remain far from home, it is the loneliest and quietest night of the year. Then a video call from the family lights up the phone screen and the glow of the diyas feels warm again. Diwali, the Festival of Lights, is observed throughout the Indian subcontinent, with each region practicing distinct customs and legends. In India, festivals mean family, food, laughter and rich traditions. Loudspeakers blare devotional music and the latest Bollywood hits, while the crowd bustles through the streets shopping amid the constant honking of traffic. On Diwali nights, when firecrackers add to the chaos, there is a familiar bliss.

For many Indian students on campus, Diwali brings mixed feelings. There is the joy of marking the festival, but also a strong sense of homesickness and missed traditions. The new way of celebrating is to cook dishes from online videos, light candles, and engage with new friends and peers to keep culture alive while creating new rituals.

The reason behind the lights and festivities changes from one region to the next. In Northern India, people celebrate the return of Lord Rama, Sita and Lakshmana to Ayodhya. They light clay diyas, make rangolis in front of their houses and set off fireworks to guide them back home. Whereas

Continued...

in Eastern India, Diwali usually coincides with Kali puja when the fierce goddess annihilates the near-invincible demon Raktabij. The tradition is to light clay diyas and make food offerings known as tarpan to guide the souls of the ancestors. It is similar to Día de los Muertos, where families honor ancestors and loved ones on altars with their favorite dishes. Southern India observes Diwali as the defeat of the demon Narakasura. On Narak Chaturdashi, homes are cleaned and decorated with kolams while people take oil baths, wear new clothes and share sweets and food. Western India welcomes the festival as the New Year, offering prayers to goddess Laxmi for wealth, luck and prosperity. Rangolis and paper lanterns called akash kandils decorate and commemorate the occasion.

Food is a big part of Diwali, with traditions and recipes passed down through generations. Like the legends and rituals, the food also varies by region. In the north, tables are filled with gujiyas, kaju katli, gulab jamun, mathri, dahi bhalle and more. Rice flour and jaggery are the main ingredients for all the sweets in the southern part, such as payasam, unniyapam and ariselu. The east favors cottage cheese-based sweets such as chhena poda and sandesh, along with thekua and pithas. Western India is known for fafda with jalebi, karenji, ghevar and moong dal halwa. Central India has its own famous sweets, including mawa bati and shahi malpua.

Traditions and rituals often evolve to fit new surroundings for these same students far from home. Even with looming assignments, Diwali still arrives with uneven gujiyas, store-bought sweets and rooms decorated with twinkling lights. At the University of Washington and other campuses, international students gather in local spaces and transform them into festive hubs.

Student club organizations play a pivotal part in this community by building and sharing traditions. Desi Student Arts & Advocacy Association (DSA) at UW Bothell is dedicated to combining advocacy for social, economic and political issues affecting South Asian countries and the global diaspora with creative expression. “Desi” refers to people and cultures from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, the Maldives, Afghanistan, Myanmar and Tibet. It also includes communities of South Asian descent in places such as Fiji, Guyana, Mauritius and Trinidad and Tobago. Students can join by attending campus club fairs or weekly meetings announced on their social media. Building on the mission to provide a space for students to express their creative interests, DSA along with Nitya Dance Club, is organizing Pataka as a night to celebrate Diwali with food, music and dancing on Friday, November 20.

Diwali marks a significant milestone for the Indian diaspora in Washington state. In February, the Washington State Senate voted to recognize Diwali and Bandi Chhor Divas as non-legal holidays, a campaign led by Senator Manka Dhingra and supported by Senator Vandana Slatter. Senator Dhingra said, “This bill is about acknowledging our state’s religious and cultural diversity and making sure our Indian American community feels seen, respected and celebrated.” Although the bill does not require government offices or schools to close, it is a significant step forward for the Pacific Northwest’s diverse landscape. Senator Slatter said, “The bill doesn’t just add a holiday to the calendar. It recognizes Indian Americans and their traditions as part of our shared civic life.”

Fall here at UWB brings together students from many backgrounds to share the festive spirit of Diwali, Día de los Muertos, Yi Peng, Thanksgiving and many other global celebrations. Cultural activities on campus give students a platform to share their experiences, invite others into their traditions, create new rituals and participate in local events.

There are several venues around the Puget Sound region that host very lively celebrations off campus, bringing people together to share their cultures. The Seattle Art Museum hosts a Diwali celebration for the community as well as the Seattle Center’s Diwali: Lights of India. These festivals feature traditional dance, music, art workshops and festival food. Seattle also hosts a Diwali mela for families to shop together and enjoy the festival with nostalgia. Bellevue Collection does Rangoli displays, Lantern Craft, Diwali AR, interactive screens and live performances as well. Bothell City Hall is also hosting Diwali celebrations along with other community celebrations.

As rangolis and kolams have become community art, Diwali has evolved for students who have left familiarity behind to explore. On a growing campus at the University of Washington Bothell, Diwali is a gathering that includes classmates, peers, neighbors and anyone looking to learn about the stories behind the lights. It is no longer just about light overcoming darkness, but also about adapting to a new environment and creating communal harmony.

Celebrate Diwali: 11/8

Designed by: Mannat Kaur - **Visual Media Desiger**



Introduction of NFL Guardian Caps: An Impression of Safety

Written by: Campbell Hamilton
- Assistant Editor
October/November 2026



Image Credit: NFL

Coming off of a dominant win in the Super Bowl against the New England Patriots, it's arguably never been a better time to be a Seahawks fan. Personally, the mid-season hype surrounding Seattle's premier sports franchise was enough to convert me into a full-on football fan whereas when I was a kid, I had little to no interest. Regardless of the attention you may pay towards football, viewers of all walks of life may have increasingly noticed the presence of the so-called "Guardian Caps" adopted by some players in regular season games. In a game often taken so seriously, the presence of these bulky head coverings piqued my interest. However silly they look, if they help protect players, then I fully support them. However, the reality of these safety devices is more complicated than it may first appear.

Although first appearing in practices during the 2020 offseason, the initial idea behind the Guardian Cap can be traced back another decade prior. Founded in 1996 by Erin and Lee Hanson, their company the Hanson Group operated as a chemical supplier working across multiple industries. In 2010 they began and completed work on a specialized foam layer for a new version of the "ProCap", a helmet safety device that saw sporadic use in the National Football League (NFL) during the 90s. After presenting the idea to NFL officials and having the idea passed on, they began working to improve the underlying technology. To help pursue this goal and expand the technology's use across various levels of the game, the Hansons created the company Guardian Sports.

According to Guardian Sports, beginning with use in various high school and college programs, the flagship "Guardian XT" began being used in practices by various organizations.

In 2017, the XT won the NFL's "HeadHealthTECH" Challenge which provided funding to test the efficacy of the technology at an NFL level. After conducting the initial testing, the Guardian XT showed little to no improvement in preventing concussions or softening blows to players' heads. However, after continued research and development on the part of Guardian Sports, they released the Guardian Cap NXT. This updated model increased the amount of padding present and made it a heavier 12 ounces compared to its predecessor, which was only 7 ounces. Following the release of this updated model, both the NFL and the NFL Player's Association (NFLPA) cleared the helmet cover for use in practice.

Following the creation of the NXT, the Jacksonville Jaguars were the first NFL team to allow their use in practice during the 2020 offseason. However, initial use of the NXT was limited, as long term research surrounding their efficacy was still hard to come by. During the 2021 offseason, other franchises across the league began offering Guardian Caps to players, and a study was released looking at how the caps reduced harm to them. Based on research conducted by consulting firm BioCore and Stanford University, the caps "show an average reduction of 10%-25% of HARM – head acceleration response metric.". HARM as a metric helps quantify the degree to which a "hit" of a certain speed and force will impact an athlete. The higher the measured HARM, the more likely a hit will be harmful to the player and potentially result in a concussion.

Following the publishing of the initial research results, a resolution was passed in a meeting with the NFL owners mandating the use of Guardian Caps during practices for positions with the highest impact intensity: those of Offensive Linemen, Defensive Linemen, Linebackers and Tight ends.

Following the 2022 mandate, Guardian Caps were used in practice and credited with helping reduce player concussions, although the link had not been scientifically proven. However, things changed in 2025 when a study was released that analyzed the effectiveness of the Guardian Cap NXT over the past handful of seasons. According to the report, "For concussions involving the helmet shell (as opposed to the facemask) (n = 76), there was no significant association between Guardian Cap NXT use and the concussion rate." The report concludes that, "the reduction in concussions could not be attributed solely to the energy-absorbing effects of the Guardian Cap NXT."

Although there isn't a clear link between the use of the NXT and reduced rate of concussions for players, the report also discusses an additional dimension related to player use of the covering. With the NFL's



*Image Credit: Intramural Activities - IG @imhub_*

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efforts to increase player safety by mandating Guardian Caps during practices, there are also growing concerns over how they will influence player behavior. Some have argued that Guardian Caps will increase the aggressiveness of player behavior based on the assumption that it will compensate for more physical play. Although the report was clear in the middling efficacy of Guardian Caps, initial reporting out of the NFL would suggest otherwise. Following the publication of the report, headlines coming from the NFL focused on a statistic of a 54% to 62% reduction in overall concussion incidence during practices in the study period.

With the NFL's most recent safety initiative being called into question, it brings to mind the controversy surrounding the discovery of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, or CTE. CTE is a brain disease that can develop from both concussive and sub-concussive impacts that an NFL player would sustain during the course of their career. For years, stories of NFL players dealing with severe mental health issues and other cognitive struggles were chalked up to individual failings and one-off incidents. However, following both the brain disease's documentation in 2005 and subsequent research in 2017 that found CTE in 345 of 376 samples from deceased NFL players, the extensive impact of sustained head trauma from football was revealed. Although the 2017 report faces issues with a biased sample pool, a recent study published in the British Medical Journal establishes the more accurate prevalence of developed CTE (with varying levels of severity) at 1 in 4 for all NFL players.

As the NFL continues to grow from its already unprecedented level of cultural influence, it's important to keep in mind the risks that players continue to face. Although professional athletes can understand and accept the risks that come along with playing, those looking to pursue a career in the sport put themselves at risk with no guarantee of success. As football and its safety technology evolves, it's important for fans and those involved in the sport to deeply consider the future of the sport. What level of both risk and actual harm to the participants is acceptable in pursuit of what is fundamentally an entertainment product?

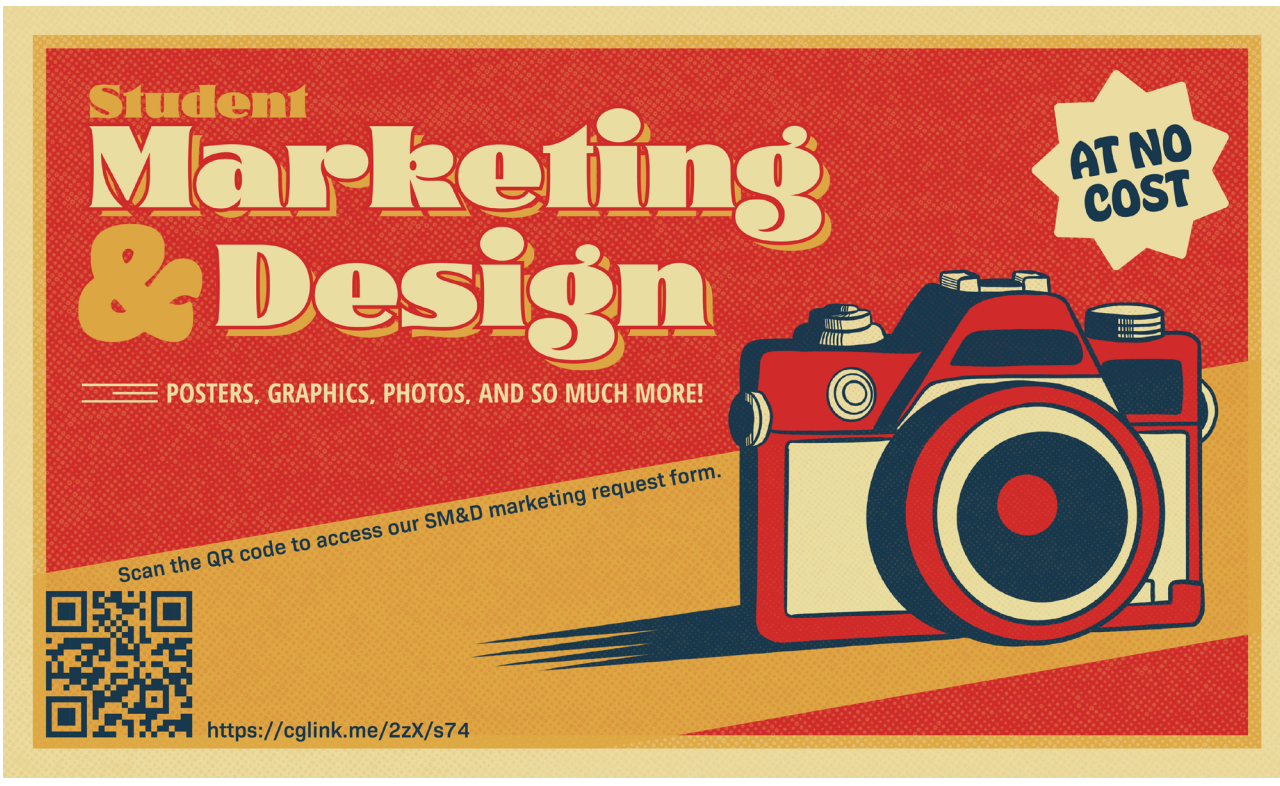


Image Credit: SM&D @uwbsm_d

Halloween Word Search

C	S	S	B	A	B	P	S	N	T	K	K	H	R
E	C	P	O	F	U	E	I	I	T	C	B	M	N
M	O	E	N	O	A	G	S	E	E	I	T	R	I
E	B	L	E	G	H	S	K	E	D	T	I	S	E
T	W	L	S	T	D	C	E	C	K	S	R	I	T
E	E	E	M	D	H	R	L	G	S	M	I	Y	S
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S	R	B	T	S	W	C	N	L	S	B	U	P	N
Y	Y	O	T	K	M	A	G	I	C	T	L	S	A
R	S	O	L	E	C	A	N	D	L	E	L	F	R
L	A	R	U	T	A	N	R	E	P	U	S	T	F
C	G	H	O	S	T	E	O	W	I	C	K	E	D

MAGIC
CASKET
SKULL
NIGHTMARE
SCARY
GHOUL
BROOMSTICK
BONES
WICKED
FRANKENSTEIN
SPOOKY
CANDLE
MASK
WITCH
BOO
CEMETERY
SUPERNATURAL
SCREAM
COBWEB
GHOST
SKELETON
SPIRIT
FOG
SPELL

Play this puzzle online at : https://thewordsearch.com/puzzle/10033810/

Spotlight on the Neuroinclusivity Program at the UW Bothell Counseling Center

Written by: Hailey Miller
- Campus Life Reporter
October/November 2026

Image Credit: Counseling Center
- IG @uwbcounseling

Have you ever questioned if your brain functions differently from your peers or if you require more structure for your learning? Neurodivergent students are individuals whose brains function differently, including attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder, autism, dyslexia or dyspraxia as the most known variations. UWB's commitment to assisting Neurodivergent students is demonstrated through the Counseling Center here on campus, making sure that every student has access to learn at UW Bothell with the accommodations they need.

The Counseling Center serves as a place for students to receive help with personal and psychological growth. It is located in the UW1 building on the basement floor. The Counseling Center's main goal is to "provide brief mental health services that enhance student well-being and assist growth and academic success." The Counseling Center has counselors from different licensed mental health professions or clinicians-in-training who are supervised by licensed clinicians. Trevor Taone, a mental health counselor, assists with neurodiversity and neurodiversity consultations. According to Taone, the Counseling Center focuses on "anxiety, depression, academic stress, relationship concerns, grief and trauma." Students have the opportunity for open discussion, which can include navigating academic stress, advising and transitioning to college.

The Neuroinclusivity program focuses on consultations with students who are seeking accommodations, so that undiagnosed students can break down the barriers limiting their success and receive assistance without delay. During our conversation, Taone explained how impactful the program can be for students. He said, "It's things like this that can take a lot of time. It's usually not covered by regular health insurance, so it can cost a lot of money." The program doesn't provide a full diagnosis or assessment, but it's a great starting point for students to get more information without the concern of costly services.

The Counseling Center also holds a variety of workshops that center on different stress relief strategies for students to use during the academic year. Through Outreach and Workshops, they host weekly events such as Mindful Monday, Your Future Awaits: Support your Graduates, Stress Management and more. The Neuroinclusivity workshop aims to support neurodivergent students through a targeted approach and focus.

Students who are interested in becoming involved or supporting on campus can work as a Student Advisory Group Member. The Student Advisory Group is a paid part-time position, which includes meeting regularly with the Violence Prevention & Advocacy team to promote and provide feedback. Also, the position focuses on increasing campus safety and advocating for students' voices.

October 10 is Global Mental Health Day, highlighting everyone's right to access treatment and resources for mental health. Research shows 1 in 8 people living with mental health conditions go untreated or unrecognized. Mental health changes the way we interact with people, how we control our emotions and do daily tasks. It targets physical health by influencing lack of sleep, heart health and/or weight gain. Additionally, emotional health can be impacted by heightened anxiety, depression or negative emotions. It can also affect social health by challenging connections, enhancing isolation or placing pressure on relationships.

Neurodivergent students can often struggle to manage the challenges of mental health, which is why our campus has resources accessible for students to receive support. It is vital that the UWB community continues to ensure that all students are recognized on campus. Inclusivity is the key to fostering a great community, and UWB continues to do so.

For more information on the Counseling Center, please contact uwbcc@uw.edu.

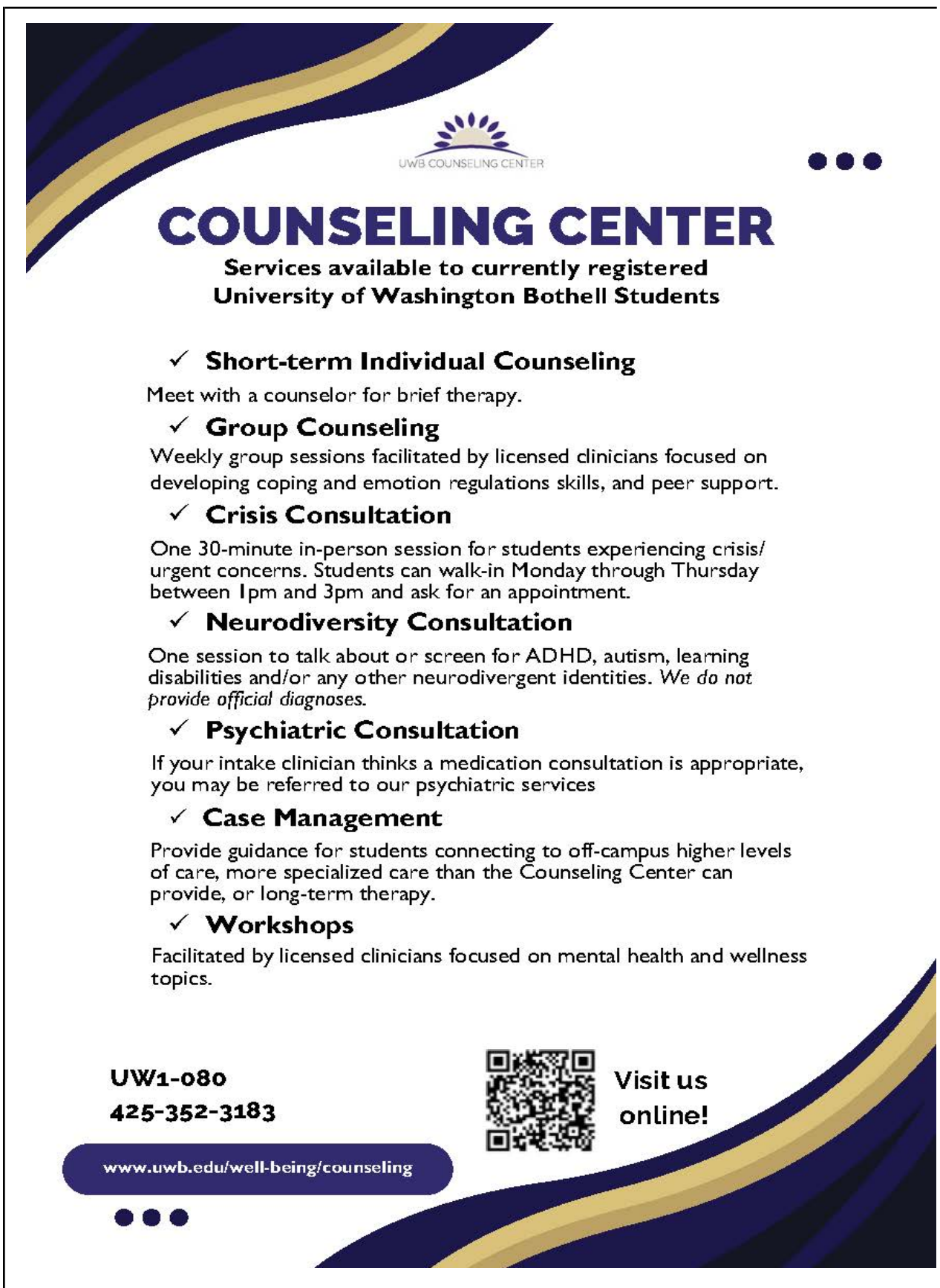


Image Credit: Counseling Center - IG @uwbcounseling

Indigenous Community Welcome Dinner!

Photography by: Gary Norris
- Campus Photographer
October/November 2026

Here at UWB, all students, staff and faculty get the chance to meet and connect with our Indigenous Community! Come by to try traditional foods, engage in conversation and learn more about Indigenous culture!



Attendees lining up for food



Dinnertime conversation



Attendees at the end of the meal



Attendees getting food to go



Salad and dessert to enjoy

Washington Confronts the AI Data Center Boom

Written by: Belen Villalobos Plascencia
- **News Reporter**
October/November 2026



Image Credit: Washington State Department of Ecology

In June 2026, the Seattle City Council passed two bills placing a one-year emergency moratorium on large-scale data center development. This temporary halt aims to protect residents from high utility bills and help ease the strain on the area's electrical grid. The legislation was driven largely by community concerns surrounding the environmental and economic impact of AI data centers. Since then, Seattle has become the largest city in the United States to stop any development of artificial intelligence infrastructure.

Council Bill 121214 halts the filing, processing or approval of requests for large-scale data centers. The accompanying regulation, Resolution 32204, establishes a formal framework to evaluate future data center proposals. Under these bills, Seattle has enacted a temporary freeze for data center construction that requires at least 20 megavolt-amperes of electricity consumption. This decision was largely based on the plans of four technology companies to establish five new data centers whose electricity consumption would account for up to one-third of Seattle's current electrical capacity. Public pressure from groups like Amazon Employees for Climate Justice led to meetings with policymakers about their concerns. They ran a campaign that ended with nearly 100,000 emails sent to legislators, ultimately affecting the passing of these regulations.

As The Guardian reported, the decision will provide a year to develop regulations that can control the operation of data centers without raising utility rates for residents. Councilmember Eddie Lin said that large AI data centers drive up energy costs and pollute the air. He also added, "We've heard from tens of thousands of residents – Seattleites should not be subsidizing record profits from large corporations from the AI boom." Lawmakers included exemptions to this moratorium for some activities to continue regarding the data centers. For instance, essential civic infrastructure such as facilities serving the 911 emergency dispatch centers, transit systems and hospitals are exempted from halting. Additionally, existing data centers in Seattle may seek permission to increase power generation capacity by up to 20 megawatts.

Concerns over rising energy bills extend nationwide as the U.S. House of Representatives approved the Ratepayer Protection Act, an act aimed at protecting consumers nationwide from paying the electrical costs associated with the power demand from AI data centers resulted in a 417-3 vote. Sponsored by U.S. Representatives Gabe Evans, R-Colo. and Kathy Castor, D-Fla., the legislation introduces federal standards for state utility commissions. This requires technology companies and data center developers to cover the costs of regional electrical grid upgrades instead of passing those expenses onto residents.

NBC News reported that while the bill won near-unanimous backing among lawmakers who sought to ensure prompt consumer protections from costs, some progressive members opposed the law. They argued that the bill fails to establish federal limitations on industrial water usage, emissions from diesel generators and noise pollution. According to public polls conducted in congressional hearings, nearly 70 percent of respondents nationwide are against the development of large data centers in their local communities.

This conflict in Seattle is only one example of growing tensions that exist throughout Eastern and Central Washington due to cheap hydroelectric power and tax breaks. According to data center industry databases such as Baxtel and Data Center Map, the state has 130 data centers with 1,408 megawatts of power capacity, ranking it as the eighth state with the most AI data centers and falling behind Virginia (674), Texas (537) and California (296). Within the state, cities like Seattle, Quincy and Wenatchee host the most data centers with 40, 27 and 15 sites.

Rural communities are increasingly seeing new challenging developments. For instance, in October 2026, Walla Walla residents protested across 19 sites against the construction of a proposed $4.8 billion Amazon data center that would cover 550 acres. According to the Washington State Standard, community groups like the Walla Walla Anti-Data Center League spoke out about threats of groundwater pollution and massive water consumption. They even collected roughly 1,900 signatures to call for a full environmental impact statement and a statewide moratorium.

Tech facilities do bring in substantial municipal revenue, for example, the $5 million of property tax income grossed annually from the new Amazon Walla Walla project. However, they leave few employment opportunities beyond the construction phase. For local communities and university campuses, the surge in high-density computing creates an instant problem in some local areas. On the UW Bothell campus, where facilities rely on Puget Sound Energy and operate under the state's Clean Buildings Performance Standards, the rise in power demand can complicate energy conservation.

As students prepare for careers in tech and sustainability sectors, they find themselves at the center of the AI debate. In many cases, they constantly feel the need to balance the efficiency of AI tools against growing internal and external concerns over environmental impact. As public hearings continue within the state, residents face a changing region where balancing clean energy goals, affordability and technological advancement remains an active challenge.



Image Credit: Unsplash

Intramural Activities: Flag Football

Photography by: Sarah Rapier
- **Campus Photographer**
October/November 2026

Flag football is hosted by Intramural Activities quarterly. Leagues consist of 6 weeks of regular season games and 2 weeks of playoffs. All leagues are officiated by student staff. New players are able to join teams throughout the season until playoffs begin. For any questions, please contact imhub@uw.edu.



Players discuss strategy



The game begins



Aftermath of a pasing play



In the middle of the action



A game referee poses for the camera



Players running to make the catch

Mayor Katie Wilson's Homeless Shelter Plan and What to Expect

Written by: Estel Soriano Bergua
- **News Reporter**
October/November 2026



Image Credit: KNKX

On Nov. 2, 2015, former Seattle Mayor Ed Murray declared a state of emergency on homelessness as the current public health crisis. It has been a decade since the city declared the state of emergency, and Mayor Katie Wilson is taking a different approach this year. In February, Mayor Wilson signed Executive Order 2026-02 to accelerate the city's efforts to help unhoused residents. The executive order will focus on accelerating shelter expansion and investing in interventions that have proven successful over time.

Mayor Wilson's plan aims to reduce unsheltered homelessness, improve safety and well-being for the affected people and communities. The plan will expand shelter capacity by 960 beds (540 in development + 420 additional) and serve 1,750 people annually. Of the 540 beds in development, 344 were added through City-funded projects. Another 196 came from expediting projects underway that other sources or regional partners funded. This leaves a total of eight new shelters scheduled to open in 2027.

According to the executive summary of the plan, the cost of this shelter investment will total approximately $37 million in 2027. Funding will come from two sources: $19 million in existing and reallocated funds, and an additional $18 million allocated to the Seattle Human Services Department. The mayor's 2027-2028 budget proposal released on October 13 includes a more detailed overview of where and how this plan will be funded.

Several shelters have already opened this year, including Bayside Enhanced Shelter, Brighton Village, and Belmont Village. The city plans to open a few more by the end of the year, including Cloverleaf Village and Glassyard Commons, a Purpose Dignity Action (PDA) operated shelter. It will also expand existing shelters.

The plan covers four shelter types: essential, enhanced, enriched and complex. Essential shelters provide overnight shelter, limited services and are often client operated. Enhanced shelters provide shelter for longer and have case management to support future housing navigation. Enriched shelters provide housing navigation, case management and service connections to meet people's needs. Complex shelters provide the same as enriched and intensive case management with on-site services to meet specific needs for many individuals. Based on data collected on unhoused individuals, around 60% of people in Seattle would need either access to an enriched or complex shelter. As a result, this plan is to ensure that around 60% of the shelters this coming year use one of these models.

These new shelters will also include resources to help unhoused individuals get on a clear path. These resources include case management and housing navigation as well as programs with specialized behavioral health, medical care, substance-use treatment and legal services. Additionally, Mayor Wilson's plan aims to aid residents who are at risk of homelessness, with the goal of helping 2,000 households stay housed.

A new online rental assistance application is also in development for 2027 to simplify access to help. The plan will also continue long-term rental subsidies and on-site services. The city and King County are working together with providers, people with lived experience and regional partners to establish the best resources that they can provide. With Mayor Wilson's plan and the Seattle Housing Levy, which has been in place since 2023, there are all different kinds of forces at work to ensure we are addressing the crisis. Not to mention, these are just two of the many programs that are in place in the Seattle area.

According to the World Population Review, Washington's homeless rate in 2024 was 40.0 per 10,000 citizens. This puts the state third in the country, with New York and California in second and first place, respectively. According to the executive order, ever since the city declared a civil emergency on homelessness, there has been a threefold increase in deaths annually of people presumed to be homeless.

Seattle has a long history with homelessness and housing crises. The Seattle Municipal Archives show a record of homelessness in Seattle, since it was first incorporated in 1869. The city jail has previously often served as shelter for those without a place to stay. The crisis of homelessness was especially noticeable during the Great Depression, when Hoovervilles were being built all over the country. The city ultimately decided to remove the shacks by burning them. Shortly before World War II, a shack elimination program began. By 1942, the city reported it had burned about 600 shacks, with about 75 still scheduled to be destroyed.

While the city of Seattle has always faced a lack of housing, there have been many different strategies attempted by previous bureaucrats to resolve the matter. According to City Records, one of the most prominent policies has been the Seattle Housing Levy, initially passed in 1968. As the overview states, "For nearly 45 years, Seattle residents have consistently supported this critical resource." Most recently, the levy was renewed in 2023, receiving a voter approval rate of over sixty-nine percent. The goals of this levy are to build over 3,100 new affordable homes, stabilize supportive housing workforce and provide direct assistance to prevent homelessness through housing stability services.

Since Mayor Wilson's executive order was released, the plan has been reaching completion. The remainder of Wilson's plan will be executed in 2027, making its future remain a mystery. The homeless shelters that have been established through this executive order are open to anyone, and resources are available by calling 211 for Washington state residents.

At UW Bothell, there are several information and care teams students can contact if they are looking for aid. The CARE Team have a variety of different resources available for students in distress. Their mission is to allow faculty, staff, parents and students the ability to contact all support services within one location. You can find resources such as the Husky Pantry, the Counseling Center and Safe Campus. No matter what service you are looking for, there is a place that has it all. Whereas it can sometimes be a challenge to find the exact resources that you need, the CARE team's website is set up comprehensively for you to find assistance. The UWB website has a list of many resources depending on the situation.

For additional information on these resources, please email safecampus@uw.edu or call 206-685-7233 to make a report.



Image Credit: Unsplash

Don’t Just Touch Grass, Plant a Tree

Written by: Erik Hirt
- Campus Life Reporter
October/November 2026

Picture this: you’re walking along a trail to attend your next class. Thoughts are rushing through your head about preparing for your next exam, the amount you still need to study, the worry of failure and the anxiety over your final grade. All those thoughts are rushing through you at once until you take a moment to look at a cedar tree. Its branches rustling in the mild breeze. You focus on the tree and realize there are other trees surrounding it, and not just cedars. There are crab apple trees with their own fruit ready to be tried and vine maples twisting out of the ground. A sense of peace comes over you as you continue down the trail. If you have had this sensation, you’ve experienced “forest bathing”, a practice of focusing on the surrounding environment that has been shown to reduce stress.

Forest bathing isn’t foreign to Bothell’s campus due to the accessibility of natural places nearby. Thanks to the efforts of the Alliance 4 Sustainability and Native Plant Society, the campus has a thriving wetland ecosystem, a pollinator farm to maintain native fauna and a community of conservation-minded volunteers.

When prompted about the history of the university’s wetlands, Aysha Siddiqui, Alliance 4 Sustainability’s Co-President who handles the club’s planning with other organizations, described how the surrounding environment was radically different. The wetland, having been converted from what was once farmland, took twenty-plus years of restoration. The ecosystem requires consistent maintenance by the ground crews with contributions from the Alliance 4 Sustainability and Native Plant Society.

According to Daniel Rivera, the additional Co-President of Alliance 4 Sustainability who deals with weekly restoration projects, his club and the Native Plant Society merged as part of both the clubs’ goals aligning along with filling officer roles for the new academic school year.



Image Credit: Erik Hirt

The club finds value in contributing to the restoration success story that is Bothell’s wetlands. Siddiqui pointed out that the natural ecosystem is noticeable due to the amount of beaver activity and flooding that is occurring within UW Bothell’s borders too.

Although Alliance 4 Sustainability is only four years old, it’s making noticeable impacts on campus. Having weekly meetings each quarter at Sarah Simonds Green Conservatory and at the campus farm, the club encourages students to get involved in restoration efforts. I’ve learned this firsthand, having participated in planting cedar sapling in the wetland that will hopefully grow to maturity in the future. These restoration efforts aren’t just for the sake of maintaining the campus’s ecosystem but also to instill awareness of the natural land and form a sense of community. Rivera expressed how the work has impacted him, stating, “It’s my first time regularly volunteering. Working here in this club inspired me to pursue a minor in ecological restoration.”

The amount of work it takes to maintain the wetlands can be formidable. Sam Mark, an intern working on the wetlands, described the rigorous efforts of having to remove invasive plants like loosestrife and nightshade from deep in the wetlands that club members don’t experience. This is due to the hazards that accompany such work. Mark mentioned, “We’re out on a boat ripping out purple loosestrife. We must wear chest waders and we’re floating on a vegetation shelf that you could fall through.”

The trails also require routine maintenance as the campus ground and wetland crews use string trimmers, leaf blowers and the occasional chainsaw to make the trails accessible for students and pedestrians. It’s no easy task to keep our natural spaces maintained, but the results are worth the effort. When asked what they hope people will take away from the wetlands, Siddiqui was quick with her response. “I want people to go outside! Take breaks from your studies.”

As someone who has a tendency to get wrapped up in assignments, I believe all students should follow her advice. Sometimes, a good break means taking a stroll through nature and at other times planting a tree to contribute to our community. With that being said, go out and try some forest bathing, courtesy of the Bothell wetlands.

For more information on club events and gatherings, follow on social media:

Alliance 4 Sustainability

Instagram:
(@uwb_alliance4sustainability)

Native Plant Society

Instagram: (@nativeplantsociety.uwb)



Image Credit: Erik Hirt

Zombie Fish

Comic by: Mahnoor Asim
- **Comic/Graphics Artist**
October/November 2026

Dive into the North Creek Wetland with three friends as they explore the thriving habitat of salmon and other animal species. As one of the largest and most complex floodplain restorations in Washington State, there's a ton to explore right here on campus!



Image Credit: Unsplash

Deep in the North Creek wetlands...



Native American Heritage Day: 11/27

Designed by: Noor Altaie - **Visual Media Designer**



Calling All Writers: Check out Gamut!



Image Credit: Gamut - IG @gamutpoetry

Discover Garments Made out of Soilless Cotton

Written by: Keaona Gray-Outlaw
- **Editor-in-Chief**
October/November 2026



Image Credit: Magtech

An interview with David René Rodríguez, co-founder of MagTech, discussing their H&M collaboration.

Q: As co-founder, what inspired you behind the mission of MagTech?

A: The idea behind Magtech is to reconsider how we grow a material that is part of everyday life. People often think about cotton when they buy a T-shirt, but much less about the land, water and agricultural work behind it. Our mission is to develop a way of growing cotton without fertile soil, with greater control over water and plant nutrition. We want to connect agricultural research with products people actually use, while testing what it takes to make that approach practical at scale.

Q: What makes MagTech unique?

Our focus is on bringing hydroponics to cotton and developing the cultivation system around the crop. The plants grow with their roots in a shallow layer of water containing nutrients and dissolved oxygen. Drainage is collected, monitored, adjusted and recirculated, while water and nutrients consumed by the plants are replenished.

We combine this with cameras, environmental sensors and AI-assisted analysis. We work with CEBAS-CSIC on crop management and with IRI, a joint CSIC-UPC institute, on mechanization and robotics. Harvesting is currently assisted by suction equipment; robotic harvesting remains under development.

The result is cotton grown by cotton plants, using a different cultivation method. The challenge is to make agronomy, engineering, fiber quality and production economics work together.

Q: How do you see MagTech changing the landscape of the fashion industry and what changes do you anticipate being made for textile agriculture?

A: Hydroponic cotton could give the textile industry an additional way to produce natural fiber in locations where fertile agricultural soil is limited. The ARKET garments show that cotton grown this way can move beyond a cultivation experiment and into a finished product.

Scaling requires much more than producing a good crop. We need to understand investment costs, energy demand, yields, labor requirements and how consistently the system performs over time. Our aim is to complement existing cotton production. Farmers' knowledge remains important, and any transition should include training and opportunities in crop management, nurseries, monitoring, maintenance and harvesting.

Q: What are your current thoughts on the future of fashion sustainability based on the conditions of the global market today? Do you apply your own thoughts or experiences to the work done at MagTech?

A: My view is that innovation has to make environmental and economic sense. A promising growing method will have limited impact if it cannot reliably deliver the quality and cost that the supply chain needs.

At Magtech, that means treating each pilot as an opportunity to measure and improve the system. Recirculating water is a design feature; the overall environmental benefit must be assessed across the full production process, including energy, nutrients, equipment and fiber output. Independent life-cycle assessment matters because no production method has zero impact.

For fashion more broadly, better raw materials need to be accompanied by durable products, responsible production and longer use. A new cotton-growing method can contribute to that work, but it cannot solve every challenge on its own.

Q: How did the collaboration with ARKET, H&M Group come about and are there any similar future partnerships with this group or others?

A: The ARKET launch grew out of development work between Magtech and H&M Group's Circular Innovation Lab, bringing together cotton cultivation and the requirements of a fashion supply chain. ARKET, which is part of H&M Group, introduced garments made with this cotton in its fall 2026 collection. For us, that is a meaningful step from agricultural development to a product customers can wear.

We would like to build on that experience and explore further collaborations. I do not have additional partnerships to announce here; any future announcement would need to be coordinated with the organizations involved.

Q: How can students use this as a way to implement sustainability practices in their fields and careers?

A: Start by following an everyday product back to its raw materials and asking how it is made. A cotton T-shirt connects plant science, water management, engineering, design, business and consumer behavior.

Students can apply that perspective through practical projects: an engineering team could study monitoring or harvesting; business students could compare production costs and adoption barriers; design students could investigate durability and material choices. Across all those fields, ask what the evidence shows, what the comparison is and what has been left out of the calculation.

My advice is to stay curious and work across disciplines. Useful sustainability work often starts with a specific, measurable problem and a team willing to test its assumptions.



Image Credit: Hanin Nazifa

Letter from the ASUWB President

Written by: Elyse Trujillo
- ASUWB President
October/November 2026

Image Credit: ASUWB



President
Elyse Trujillo
She/her
Major: Law, Economics
and Public Policy

Dear UWB Huskies,

The Associated Student of the University of Washington Bothell became aware of the proposed student code of conduct changes on August 18 via email from school administration. The deadline for feedback on these changes was August 25. Unfortunately, this short timeline made it difficult for us to provide cohesive, informed feedback on these critical documents. We are aware and glad that the vote by the Board of Regents to approve these changes has been postponed to December 10, but we still have major concerns with the process of implementing these changes and the content of the proposed amendments.

First, this process occurred during the summer, seemingly to deliberately avoid student and faculty input. Whether or not this was the intention, it certainly feels that way to those of us who are involved in everyday life on campus. Students and faculty, regardless of involvement on campus, deserve at least the fair opportunity to share feedback on changes to the rules that govern our day-to-day lives on all three of our campuses. The assumption that student and faculty would be naive to the attempt to suppress our voices is not only deeply troubling, but insulting the student body.

Secondly, our concerns around the proposed changes focus on the following issues: campus protest and freedom of expression, interim suspension before a formal disciplinary hearing, expanded language concerning property damage, doxing and online student activism, hazing definitions and student organization accountability, loss of state-funded financial aid following hazing violations, as well as student input and transparency in the rulemaking process.

Please join us for a Town Hall on November 23 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the North Creek Event Center where there will be a listening session from UW Seattle's student conduct team, as well as a panel with several UWB Administration and Faculty. We are dedicated to advancing the wants and the needs of our students, and we will not let our voices become obsolete in this conversation.

Best,

Elyse Trujillo

ASUWB President



Image Credit: Keaona Gray-Outlaw

Get to Know Your 2026–27 Student Reps!
ASUWB Vice President & Director of Finance

Written by: Keaona Gray-Outlaw
- Editor-in-Chief
October/November 2026



Vice President
Dagim Woldemichael
He/him
Major: Economics; Minors in
Data Analytics and Policy Studies

What is your role in ASUWB? What can you tell us about it?

As the ASUWB Vice President, my primary focus is ensuring our student government runs smoothly and effectively. I oversee daily team operations and partner directly with our elected officers to support campus events, advocacy and Senate operations. I also serve on several high level university committees, ensuring that the UW Bothell student voice is directly represented in administrative decision making.

What do you look forward to most in your role this academic year?

This academic year, I am most looking forward to driving meaningful change and ensuring the UW Bothell student body is robustly represented. As an elected leader, my priority is championing initiatives that enhance campus affordability, accessibility and inclusivity. To directly address these needs, our team introduced a new Campus Life Senator role this year. This position specifically targets non academic barriers to student success, spearheading critical advocacy around off-campus housing solutions and wellness resources.

What skills and experiences can students gain from joining ASUWB?

Students can gain an immense amount of professional and personal skills from joining ASUWB, especially if they are driven to make the most of the experience. Getting involved allows students to gain strategic advocacy, learn how to communicate effectively with university stakeholders, sharpen their public speaking, teamwork and leadership skills. Additionally, it provides an invaluable networking opportunity, connecting students directly with impactful leaders across our community.

What is one piece of advice you have for students new to UWB?

Put yourself out there! Go to club events, apply to cohort programs, pursue campus leadership roles and actively build your own community. Your time at UW Bothell is the perfect window to explore your passions, step out of your comfort zone and prepare yourself for the bigger opportunities and responsibilities waiting for you after graduation.



Director of Finance
Jose Lopez-Cruz
He/him
Major: Law, Economics,
and Public Policy; Finance.
Human Rights Minor.

What is your role in ASUWB? What can you tell us about it?

My role in ASUWB is to sustain a budget for lobbying action, legislative action, on-campus advocacy and town halls ASUWB holds. Apart from supporting ASUWB with budgeting for the student bodies agenda, I also support hiring for the Student Activity/Technology Fee Committee. The purpose of these Committees is to have students' voices represent where we should allocate these fees we all pay as students, whether it is more funding for legislative action, improvement to technology on-campus or more funding for on-campus events. In addition, I overlook the Student Academic Enhancement Fund with a team. This fee is purposed to cushion burdening costs of traveling, lodging or fees attached to academic/professional development. If a student wants to attend a conference that will enhance their education/professionalism, or have an opportunity to present research out of state or with fees attached to it, said student can apply for the SAEF.

What is SAF and STF?

The Student Activity Fee is the SAF which is a fee that all students pay. There is a SAF committee that is led by advisors and help the committee get together to decide how we will allocate a budget of ~$3 million for the coming academic year. This fee helps fund the ARC expenses, field expenses, Club Council, ASUWB and other general student resources. The Student Technology Fee is the STF and we also have a committee for this fee to do something similar as the SAF Committee. This Committee is directly under ASUWB, unlike the SAF Committee because STF directly funds student advancement resources (such as tech).

Is there another important fund or service that you'd like to inform students about?

One important fund I want to emphasize is the Student Academic Enhancement Fund (SAEF). This fund is open to ALL students at UWB and if you are a student ready to present research or attend a conference out of state, the fund can help cushion traveling expenses and any fees attached to attending.

What is one piece of advice you have for students new to UWB?

One piece of advice I have is to explore all resources available. ASUWB, for example, does more than just be the student government that advocates for students on the legislative level.

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Special thanks to the rest of the *Student Engagement & Activities team for making our work as the on-campus newspaper possible!*



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Post on Instagram with the hashtag for chance to get featured on our page!

Do you want to contribute to The Husky Herald?

We are always looking for student photographers, artists, writers, and more! If you have a talent that you would like to share with the Herald and gain experience to add to your resume or portfolio, please email us at uwbhh@uw.edu or contact us on our website thehuskyherald.com.