NCDA – National Career Development Association

**GLOBAL CONNECTIONS COMMITTEE (GCC)**

Annual Report | August 30, 2024

**2023-2024 GCC Leadership:**

**Chair:** Magdalena Mot, CMCS, PhD | Instructor | Work-Integrated Learning Coordinator | Melville School of Business, Kwantlen Polytechnic University

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**Co-Chair:** Marcela Mesa Guerrero | Psychologist, Career Coach, GCDF, FCD-I, CEO Orientarte

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**Co-Chair Elect:** Sonja Robinson, PhD | Educator | Program Director at International Samaritan | Consultant | Workforce Development Leader

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**GCC Committee Members:**

Raza Abbas (Pakistan); Essam A. Abobakr (Egypt); Dalia A. Abouzeid (Saudi Arabia); Soonhoon Ahn (USA, WA); Khalifa Al Barakati (Saudi Arabia); Nisreen Al-Disi (Jordan); Amro (Alex) Al Modares (Canada, BC); Mothawi Al Qasim (Saudi Arabia); Eman S. Al Yousef (Saudi Arabia); Amany S. Alghtani (Saudi Arabia); Ahlam Alhudithi (Saudi Arabia); Reem Almahjoob (Saudi Arabia); Afaf Hamad Almujalli (Saudi Arabia); Eman G. Almutiri (Saudi Arabia); Hamda H. Alnaimi (Qatar); Haila Alrakaf (Saudi Arabia); Rawan Altamimi (Saudi Arabia); Jessica Ayub (USA, WI); Christian D. Chan (USA, NC); Rebecca M. Dedmond (USA, TX); Abiola Dipeolu (USA, TX); Scott Fisher (Canada, ON); Mai Fouad (Egypt); Jane Goodman (USA, IL); Michelle Gross (USA, NC); Mervat S. Hammad (Saudi Arabia); Mohamed Hani I. Ali (Saudi Arabia); Randa Helmi (Egypt); Candy Ho (Canada, BC); Muath A. Bin Hussain (Saudi Arabia); Brian Hutchison (USA, MD); Hyoyeon In (South Korea); Sujata Ives (USA, MD); Hyung Joon Yoon (USA, PA); Natalie Kauffman (USA, MD); Manpreet Kaur (India); Hatem Kenawi (Egypt); Jaana Kettunen (Finland); Melanie Kiel (USA, WA); Jungeun (Jay) Lee (USA); Simon D. Lee (South Korea); Kelvin (Wai Kit) Ling (Hong Kong); Rasha M. Madkour (Saudi Arabia); Mohamed M. Mamdouh (Saudi Arabia); Waleed Marwan (Saudi Arabia); Marilyn E. Maze (USA, MD); April McHugh (USA, WI); Marcela Mesa Guerrero (Colombia); Ahmed Mostafa (Saudi Arabia); Magdalena Mot (Canada, BC); Samantha Ng (Singapore); Keith R. Okrosy (USA, NY); Miwa Omori (Japan); Effrosyni Parampota (Qatar); Jim Peacock (USA, ME); Tina M. Peterman (USA, OR); Alberto Puertas (USA, UT); Richard (Dick) Pyle (USA, WA); Lisa Raufman (USA, CA); Danita Redd (USA, CA); Kelly J. Roberts (USA, MA); Sonja M. Robinson (Jamaica); Minobu Sato (Japan); Rania Sawalhi (Qatar); Karol I. Taylor (USA, MD); Shelley (Hsiu-Lan) Tien (Taiwan); Ruchira Tripathi (Singapore); Sabira Vohra (USA, MD); Moon Wang (Canada, BC); Gemma A. Williams (USA, HI); Jeremiah Wong (Singapore); Sing Chee Wong (Singapore); Amy Zdanowski (USA, MI); Ginger Zhao (Canada, ON).

**Announcement:** As of September 1st, Magdalena Mot is stepping down and Marcela Mesa has accepted to chair the GCC. Sonja Robinson has accepted to serve as a Co-chair and Sepideh Kiazal has accepted to serve as the Co-Chair Elect for the 2024-25 year.

**GCC Activities to Date:**

* LinkedIn group: the “NCDA Global Connections Committee” group has been successfully launched in October 2023 and the ownership has been now moved to Marcela: all GCC members are invited to join the group here: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14276900/>
* GCC in person meeting at the NCDA Conference in San Diego: Co-Chair Elect voted at the in-person GCC meeting in San Diego, led by co-chair Marcela Mesa; 21 GCC members attended the meeting, including our NCDA Board liaison. There was a breakout into small groups and the GCC leadership had a chance to collect suggestions and insights from GCC members in attendance.
* GCC Co-chair Elect Sonja Robinson led the NCDA Conference Ambassador Program at the Conference in San Diego: we matched 17 first-time international attendees to 17 volunteer ambassadors (NCDA members). The program was very well received by new members and a few have approached Sonja and Marcela to express their gratitude for being connected in advance of arriving at the conference.
* GCC organized an off-site dinner event on June 27th at Miguel’s Cocina Restaurant in San Diego, for global NCDA members, which was well attended.
* Dr. Sini Padampota, GCC member, was presented with the NCDA 2024 International Practitioner of the Year Award.
* During September – October 2024, Magdalena Mot will deliver a series of three webinars in collaboration with CERIC, on the topic of ‘Culturally Integrated Storytelling: Empowering Diverse Clients for Life Transitions’. Dr. Mot was nominated as a Board Director with CERIC and she will also act as a Director-at-Large on the ACE-WIL Board (as of September 1, 2024).
* The project initiated and implemented during Fall 2023 by GCC Chair Magdalena Mot resulted in a series of articles inspired by best practices and stories collected from current GCC international members. The “GCC Shared Insights” group (5 members) was tasked to individually engage with members from around the globe, using a questionnaire developed by this group, via 1:1 Zoom meetings. They collected info on career development practices, successful pathways, and initiatives linked to DEI and human rights. Their work was submitted to NCDAs Career Developments editors and will be published in Career Convergence Magazine under the topic “The World of Work Around the Globe”. The presentation of the project started with a featured article in NCDA’s web magazine Career Convergence in August 2024.
* GCC members and leadership worked with the Board Trustee-at-Large to review the current description of the committee (as it appears on the website) and the revisions were presented to the NCDA Board. NCDA will take further action on this topic. The current description is: “The Global Connections Committee (GCC) was formed to unite counselors worldwide who have expressed interest and concern about international policies and practices in career development. The committee achieves this goal by playing an active role in hosting global participants at the NCDA Annual Conference, recognizing global leaders through the International Career Practitioner Award, collaborating with International Career Development Associations as partners in strategic initiatives, and representing issues of global career counseling practice worldwide through information dissemination and advocacy.”
* GCC has met with members at large three times over the 2023-24: two virtual gatherings in October 2023 and in February 2024 and one in person meeting at the conference in San Diego.

**NCDA GCC Projected Plans**

* The following activities are planned with the NCDA Strategic Plan 2024-27 in mind.

**Cultivating community**:

1. Identify both international and national NCDA members interested in Career Development Topics around the World and invite them to be part of GCC. (Mailing campaign).
2. Promote the benefits of being a member of GCC (LinkedIn Group, International Career Conversations, Ambassadors at the Conference, among others.)
3. Launch a virtual survey to get to know our members better and learn if they would be available / willing to engage more in various GCC activities.
4. Hold an ‘International Career Conversations’ virtual session *monthly*, accessible to different time zones.
5. Encourage members to share their achievements, qualifications, challenges, publications, and awards to be highlighted through GCC and reflect the group's impressive global human talent.
6. Set up a regular welcome booth at the NCDA Annual Conference.
7. Continue rolling on the Ambassador program at the annual conference, matching NCDA Ambassadors to first-timer international attendees at the next conference in Atlanta.
8. Maintain and/or foster alliances with other Career Development Associations around the world (i.e. IAEVG, APCDA, ACDA, CERIC, International Centre for Career Development and Public Policy) and exchange best practices in career development.

**Career empowerment:**

1. Highlight and foster presentations and PD events from GCC members and support their visibility.
2. Promote a GCC panel of international speakers on international best practices during the Annual Conference.
3. Highlight the presentations made by GCC members at the Annual Global NCDA Conference. (LinkedIn Group, Special invitation through a mailing to Group Members).
4. *Credentialing*: Highlight and share experiences with Credentialing internationally.
5. *Publications*: Maintain and increase GCC presence with publications like T*he World of Work and the Shared Insights Project* in NCDA’s publications. Send out a “Call for papers” to GCC members involved in research.

**Advocacy**:

1. *Benchmark*on public policy topics at an international level and share best practices; what countries have been successful in advancing Career Development? (initiate a survey).
2. Foster and actively contribute to the development of the related curriculum in other languages.
3. Advocate for the establishment of a differentiated membership fee and conference registration fee for international NCDA members, based on the Human Development Index of each country (see IAEVG Practices).