

Melyssa Harrison, CMCS, FCD MT, SCDAI, GCDFI, CWDP

Candidate for President-Elect-Elect



Melyssa Harrison is an NCDA Career Development Practitioner with over 30 years of experience in Workforce Development. An NCDA Member and FCD Instructor since 2012, Master Trainer since 2019, and a graduate of Limestone University, Melyssa's professional motto, "*building from the ground up and investing to promote the outcome,*" reflects her lifelong commitment to developing people, programs, and building bridges that promote healthy exchange and authentic partnerships.

Her thirty-year career includes leadership roles across many career development areas including workforce systems, education, program development, and practitioner training. She established South Carolina's first full service WIOA Youth Career Services Center, a model that became a state pilot recognized for innovation, partnerships, and sustained performance excellence. Melyssa is committed to collaborating with others in their career advancement or as she prefers to call it: **empowering, enhancing and equipping for success**, all while balancing family and community. Through teaching, consulting, and leadership, she has trained more than 700 career development practitioners domestically and internationally across various sectors including workforce development, K-12 education, higher education, nonprofit, military, private practice, and community initiatives.

Goal Statement:

NCDA is, at its core, a human services organization connecting individuals, employers, and communities through meaningful career development opportunities. In doing this, we know it takes a village to help clients not only discover careers aligned with their passions, but also sustain, navigate, and advance throughout their career journeys. Yet two important questions remain: who is backing the career development practitioner, and how do we take care of each other? My goal for NCDA is centered on strengthening and supporting our career development practitioners. As professionals, we all want to be respected, valued, and treated as equal contributors to the career development industry. I would work to cultivate stronger relationships, enhance leadership development opportunities, and provide comprehensive practical resources that empower practitioners to champion one another, lead with confidence, and support one another across all sectors and career stages.

I would prioritize advocacy for career development practitioners, enhance professional leadership development, and foster greater connectedness within our profession – regardless of where you are in your career journey. My vision is an NCDA community where practitioners feel seen, supported, equipped, and empowered to thrive while simultaneously continuing to transform the lives of those they serve.