

NATIONAL CAREER DEVELOPMENT MONTH COMMITTEE

ANNUAL YEAR REPORT 2025–2026
DATE OF REPORT: SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

LEADERSHIP INFORMATION

CHAIR (2025–2026):

Kimberly Cartledge (**served through March 2025**)

kcartledge@lexington1.net

kymmiepa@gmail.com

CHAIR (2025-2026)

Dr. Kimberly Carothers (**transitioned to Chair, March 2025 – Present**)

Kimberlycarothers8@gmail.com

(314) 324-0132

CO-CHAIR (2025–2026):

Open position at this time

ANTICIPATED CHAIR (2026–2027):

Dr. Kimberly Carothers

Kimberlycarothers8@gmail.com

(314) 324-0132

ANTICIPATED CO-CHAIR (2026–2027):

Open position at this time

COMMITTEE MEMBERS (2025–2026):

- Dr. Kimberly Carothers (**transitioned to Chair, March 2025 – present**)
 - Meredith Brown (**served as committee member through August 2025**)
 - Logann Todd (**served as committee member through September 2025**)
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COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES TO DATE

The National Career Development Month Committee has made strong progress advancing our mission to promote career development awareness and engagement across communities. Highlights include:

- **Updated and launched a refreshed Poetry & Art Contest Brochure** aligned with this year's 2025-2026- 60th Annual Poetry & Art Contest theme: **THE EVOLUTION OF WORK: CAREERS IN THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE**, making resources more accessible and visually engaging.
- **Initiated and implemented the NCD A Virtual State Poetry & Art Coordinator Contacts Committee Kickoff Meeting (August 25, 2025)**, fostering national connections among passionate advocates, deepening collective understanding of the 60th Annual Poetry and Art Contest, and driving collaboration on innovative strategies to amplify participation and engagement in the 60th Annual Poetry and Art Contest and National Career Development Month celebrations nationwide.

These efforts ensure strong national participation while reinforcing NCD A's commitment to celebrating creativity and career development for all.

PROJECTED PLAN/WORK COMPLETED THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30, 2025

Looking ahead, the committee is on track to complete key projects before the close of this reporting year:

- Judge 2024-2025 contest submissions-**Successfully completed March/April 2025**
- Notify state coordinators, Poetry & Art Contest Participants, and NCD A members of winners-**Completed in late April 2025**
- **Develop innovative ways to celebrate contest winners** both at the NCD A Conference and through expanded virtual recognition —**Ongoing Action**
- **Secure Poetry & Art Contest Theme and update Poetry & Art Contest Brochure for the 2026 Year Contest** ahead of the NCD A Annual Conference-**Completed in late July 2025**
- Curate resources for career development professionals (K-12 specifically) and connect them to the Poetry and Art Contest theme and National Career Development Month — **Ongoing Action**
- **Plan for the 60th Anniversary Poetry and Art Contest** by maximizing awareness nationwide, engaging schools, educators, and counselors, and fostering community partnerships, ensuring this milestone year is recognized and celebrated nationally — **Planned – October 2025**
- **Track and amplify participation** through maintaining an excel tracking sheet for outreach and submissions impact by state/region. Share milestones, achievements, and feature entries publicly

to maintain excitement and momentum, and collect feedback from participants, educators, and partners to inform next year's (2026-2027) contest improvements— **Planned – October 2025**

- **Develop a short NCDA Poetry & Art Contest Promo Video (50–60 seconds) featuring last year's 2024–2025 Poetry & Art contest winners as ambassadors**, highlighting their creativity and experiences to inspire new participants. This engaging and uplifting video will celebrate the legacy of the contest while encouraging broad participation for the upcoming 2025-2026 year— **Planned – October 2025**

 - **Explore a podcast episode for November 2025** to amplify National Career Development Month activities — **Planned – November 2025**

 - **Develop a transition plan** for the new incoming 2025–2026 committee chair leadership to ensure smooth continuity — **Successfully completed May 2025**
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