

National Career Development Association

Government Relations Committee



Fall 2009 Update

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Introduction

I'm pleased to present to you the Fall 2009 Government Relations update. Within this document you will find information about activities and events that directly relate to outreach and advocacy; two central components of our work. As you know, it is important for an association to establish relationships and build a broad network of individuals familiar with the organization's mission and legislative priorities.

This year, our work has taken on renewed importance and excitement based on priorities of the NCDA Board of Directors and our President, Dr. Pat Schwallie-Giddis. It is also important to recognize the unique challenges that we face in working with newly elected members of Congress and newly appointed members of the Executive Branch. We must also establish connections with the chairs of important committees on the Hill.

In the coming months, I look forward to sharing information about the work we are doing here in DC. I also look forward to hearing from each of you about advocacy and public policy successes at the state and local level. Please continue to be in touch with ideas and suggestions for our work together.

Events and Activities

Networking with Elected Officials

NCDA Members continue to reach out to our elected officials to introduce NCDA and advocate on behalf of our profession. This past summer and fall, NCDA members, called, wrote, or visited the offices of senators and congressmen to discuss issues including the state of the economy, green jobs initiatives, unemployment benefits, education funding, and other issues. Keep up the good work!

The National Collaborative for Career and Workforce Policy Development

Late last spring, over 20 NCDA members, professional association directors, and legislative liaisons gathered in Washington, DC to begin a discussion about public policy and career development. This initiative continues as members of the group work to develop policy statements for use in future legislation. The Collaborative is led by The Center on Education and Work at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, The National Center for Public Policy Development at Penn State University, the National Career Development Association, and the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC. The National Collaborative will provide important support and resources for the work of both our committee and the Public Policy Council.

Smithsonian Teacher's Night

On Friday, October 23, 2009 the Smithsonian Institution hosted the 2009 Teachers' Night at the Museum of Natural History. Over 1000 Teachers, administrators, college faculty, and local dignitaries were in attendance. Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, delivered the keynote speech. The evening event provided tremendous opportunities for informal networking. I had the opportunity to introduce many people to NCDA as we discussed the connections between K-12 and the world of work. The highlight of the evening was a conversation with Dr. Jill Biden. As a community college instructor for over 20 years, Dr. Biden indicated support for career and workforce development. I hope to share additional information about NCDA, our priorities, and the good work of our members with Dr. Biden in the months to come.

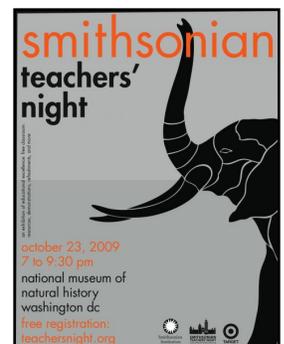


Photo Source:
www.smithsonianeducation.org

National Career Development Week Celebration in the Nation's Capitol



In partnership with the Counseling Faculty at the George Washington University and the GW Alumni Association, Dr. Pat Schwallie-Giddis hosted a National Career Development Week Celebration. The event provided an opportunity to engage leaders of professional associations, liaisons within the Federal Government, local NCDAs, and GW Alumni in a conversation about career development. The wine and cheese reception featured remarks by the Dean of GW's Graduate School of Education and Human Development, Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell; Gina Dowell, Associate Director of Alumni and Development; Thomas Stowell, NCDAs GR Committee Chair; and Dr. Pat Schwallie-Giddis, NCDAs President. GW's newest graduate certificate program in Career and Workforce Development was also unveiled at the event.

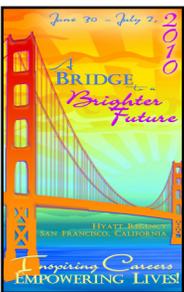
Supporting Veterans' Career and Life Transitions

In late October, a day-long conference was held in Washington that focused on providing support and resources to veterans. Speakers, including Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs Tammy Duckworth, discussed the impact of the new GI Bill on higher education. Based on conversations with representatives from the Departments of Labor, Education, and Veterans Affairs, there will be an increased focus on career development for veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in the months and years to come. As we continue to "read the tea leaves" here in DC, it seems likely that we will see additional legislation aimed at providing enhanced transition services to veterans and their families. This is an area that NCDAs will want to pay close attention to as it has implications and opportunities for our organization.



Photo Source: <http://colonialcentral.gwu.edu/VeteranServices/VeteransSymposium/>

Important Information and **Action Items**



Advocacy and Public Policy at the 2010 NCDAs Global Conference

At a recent retreat, the NCDAs Board of Directors committed to including advocacy and public policy as an important part of the 2010 Global Conference in San Francisco. The details of the program, including the role that the Government Relations Committee will play, are still being discussed. In the coming weeks, conversations with Board Liaisons and Headquarters are planned. If you are interested in providing assistance and support for this initiative, please contact me by e-mail at tom@tomstowell.com.

NCDAs Legislative Platform Review

In 2007, NCDAs members adopted our current legislative platform. Given all that has happened since that time, the Government Relations Committee has been urged to review the platform and make recommendations for a possible revision. Any change to the platform need to be approved by the general membership at the conference in San Francisco. Committee members are encouraged to review the current platform and to provide comments via e-mail to tom@tomstowell.com. Suggestions will be compiled, shared, and discussed in a conference call to be scheduled for early March. At that time, the Committee will make a recommendation to the Board of Directors regarding the legislative platform for 2010/2011.

Public Policy at the State and Local Levels

As we all know, changes in public policy or practice often begin at the state and local level. NCDAs members and GR Committee members are urged to share information about efforts in your state relative to career development.

NOTICE: The NCDAs Government Relations Committee will provide formal updates in Fall, Winter, Spring, and Summer. The next update will occur in February/March 2010. The GR Website is currently under development and should be up and running soon. This will serve as the primary vehicle for communicating with the general membership. Committee members are encouraged to submit state, local, and national updates to tom@tomstowell.com.