

Farkad Mahli, GCDF, JCTC, CDCS, CEIP, CCSP, NCDA FCD Master Trainer

Candidate for Trustee-At-Large



Farkad Mahli is a Career Development Specialist and founder of Step Ahead Global, a career development and training firm based in the UAE. With 18 years of diverse experience across the private, nonprofit, government, and educational sectors, she holds credentials including GCDF, JCTC, CDCS, CEIP, CCSP, FCD-I, and NCDA FCD Master Trainer. Farkad earned a Master's in International Relations from the University of Nottingham (UK) and is currently pursuing a PhD in Management. Fluent in Arabic and English, she has held leadership roles in higher education, including serving as a Career Specialist at Higher Colleges of Technology (HCT)—the largest university system in the UAE, serving over 16,000

students. As part of her work with Silatech (Qatar), she led initiatives focused on empowering youth through employability programs and career coaching. She has contributed to the NCDA-HRDF and King Saud University Project (KSA), further enriching her experience across the GCC region. Farkad has collaborated with prominent nonprofit organizations such as INJAZ UAE (part of Junior Achievement Worldwide), UNDP, Al Ghurair Foundation, and SANAD. She has also partnered with government agencies including RTA, DEWA, KHDA, ADEK, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Youth to enhance career services across sectors.

Goal Statement:

As a Trustee At-Large, my goal is to advance inclusivity, innovation, and global collaboration within NCDA's initiatives, with a particular focus on addressing employment challenges outside the USA. I aim to expand professional development opportunities, foster strategic partnerships, and enhance NCDA's global visibility. My background in International Relations fuels my passion for exploring global career-related issues and bringing them to NCDA's table for further support and engagement. I am especially committed to promoting the Life Design approach as a flexible framework adaptable to diverse cultural, economic, and social contexts. This approach fosters creativity, resilience, and individual agency, making it ideal for empowering youth, women, and underserved communities. As a Trustee At-Large, I aim to encourage initiatives and proposals to translate and deliver NCDA resources—such as webinars, curricula, manuals, and proposals—into multiple languages to reach broader audiences, enhance accessibility, and foster partnerships with organizations worldwide working in the field of career development. I will also leverage my strong connections across the MENA and GCC regions to encourage greater participation from international members, enriching NCDA's diverse global community.