



Annual Spring Conference

April 19, 2024 • 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM
Northern Illinois University • Naperville Campus

Checking In: The State of Career Development across Today’s Society

Keynote Speaker: Dirk Matthews, MS, CMCS, FCDI, GCDF

Foundations for Change



Dirk Matthews brings a diverse background of experience to career development that is fueled by his work as a therapist, educator, photographer, and filmmaker. He is a leader in career services and alumni relations at Columbia College Chicago. He is a private practitioner in career development and the owner of an architectural photography business. Dirk is in his 24th year providing career services in higher education and to adults, and in his 27th year of teaching film and career preparation courses. Currently, he is the Senior Director of Alumni Relations at Columbia.

Through his work in the NCDA, he is a certified Facilitating Career Development instructor and holds the credentials of Certified Master of Career Services and Global Career Development Facilitator. He previously served as chair of the NCDA Training and Education Council and as co-chair of the Technology Committee.

Dirk received his master’s degree in organizational psychology from California Southern University. He has been published in several journals including Career Developments and has an extensive history of presenting on subjects ranging from film analysis, portfolio development, creativity, and career development. His recent research focuses on the impact of the pandemic on organizations.

<i>Conference at a Glance</i>	
8:00 AM	Registration & Continental Breakfast
8:30 AM	Conference Welcome
8:45 AM	First Presentation
12:00 AM	Lunch
1:00 PM	Conference Resumes
4:30 PM	Adjournment

Registration Fees - TBD	
ICDA Members	\$100
Members of ICA/ Non-Members of ICDA*	\$120
Non-Members of ICA & ICDA	\$130
All Graduate Students	\$85
*ICA Members! Join ICDA for \$20 on the ICA website, and then register for the conference at the ICDA Member price! Total cost to you = \$120	

Registration: Online registration is available through the [Illinois Counseling Association](#).
This conference is recognized as providing 6 CE's by the Illinois Counseling Association.

ICA is a co-sponsor for this event.

The ICA is an NBCC-Approved Continuing Education Provider (ACEP) and may offer NBCC-Approved Clock Hours for events that meet NBCC requirements. The ACAP solely is responsible for all aspects of the program. This program is recognized as providing CE Clock Hours for: LPC/LCPC/NCC (NBCC Provider #2014) LSW/LCSW (IDFPR license 159.001342) MFT (IDFPR license # 168.000228) and LicPsych (IDFPR license #268.000065).

Checking In: The State of Career Development across Today's Society

Session 1 Keynote Presentation Foundations for Change

Presenter: *Dirk Matthews, MS, CMCS, FCDI, GCDF*, Senior Director of Alumni Relations, Columbia College Chicago, President Elect-Elect, NCDA

It is challenging to help the individuals we serve to adapt to the change in the rapidly changing workforce. As practitioners, we may find the change in how we deliver career services even more challenging. In this presentation, Dirk will discuss current issues the NCDA is prioritizing as we look toward the development of our next strategic plan. He will also share concepts and tools from working with individuals seeking opportunities in the unpredictable fields of arts and media.

Session 2 Presentation Employment Outlook: 2022-2032

Presenter: *Paul LaPorte*, Regional Economist, U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

Whether our clients are trying to select their first career or transition into a new one, current career information, including projected growth and hiring trends, can and should be an important component of their decision-making process. Mr. LaPorte will be presenting valuable data and projections from the BLS on the future of the job market. He will address general trends as well as information on specific jobs and industries that have been most affected by the economic changes of the past few years.

Session 3 Presentation When What You Want Doesn't Exist Yet; A Psychological Strategy

Presenter: *Wynne Lacey, M.A., LPC*, Clinical Therapist & Life Coach, Grow Wellness Group

What if your career path and job title doesn't exist yet? How would you determine what is right for you NOW, such as, where to go for training and higher education? The past few years have disrupted so much about what it means to work in this country. This counseling method will help you stop trying to control a career outcome, to participating in your truest passion.

Session 4 Presentation ChatGPT Helped Me Write This Title: Trends, Ethics, and Strategies for AI-assisted Career Writing Among College Students

Presenters: *Jenny Ingersoll, M.A., LPC*, Career Advisor, Northeastern Illinois University Office of Career Development
Tammy Martin, Career Liaison, Northeastern Illinois University Office of Career Development

Nearly half of college career services professionals report students using AI for resumes and cover letters per the National Association of Colleges and Employers (NACE). To what extent should these professionals promote the benefits of AI-assisted writing--or caution against its pitfalls? Intended for college career services professionals, career counselors, or anyone interested in AI-assisted career writing, this workshop will explore emerging trends, ethical considerations, and strategies for both using AI in career writing and counseling students in its use. Attendees will gain a better understanding of current trends, refine their professional and ethical standpoints, and leave with concrete strategies for responsibly incorporating AI into career counseling and writing--or not.

Session 5 Panel Discussion Tools of the Trade: Go-To Assessments and Resources Utilized by Career Professionals in Different Settings

Moderator: *Danette Schulz, M.A.*, Past-President, ICDA

Panelist: *David Barreto, Ph.D., LCPC*, Assistant Professor/Counselor, Waubensee Community College, Aurora, IL; Clinician/Owner, Lighthouse Counseling Center, Aurora, IL

Panelist: *Anthony Musso, M.S.W.*, Career Services Coordinator, Highland Community College

Panelist: *Libby Scanlan, M.S. Ed.*, CCC, Career Coach, Employment & Employer Services (E&ES)

There are many tools available to career professionals today, and which tools to use often depends on many factors, including a professional's preferred career theories, the training and certifications they received, the cost of the tools, the purpose of the career assistance being provided, and much more. We'll talk with three career professionals who work in different settings about their most preferred career assessments and resources. Audience members will learn relevant details about these instruments, how to get training for them, cost, and several other considerations for today's career professionals. Audience members will also be invited to share their own preferred tools of the trade.

Session 6 Presentation Lessons in Career Transition: Learning from the Professional Athlete Experience

Presenters: *Tracy Bareither, M.S.Ed.*, Sr. Director, Partnerships, AthLife, Inc.

Beth Reiman, Advisor, AthLife, Inc.

By choice or force, professional athletes encounter career transition. Retirement often occurs before the age of 30, and most transition into new careers. AthLife supports athletes from top professional leagues in their transition from sport and will share the lessons learned that apply to all clients in career transition.