

Descriptions of Candidates for 2024 APCDA Ballot

There are 3 candidates for President-Elect. This is the only position open this year.

Candidate #1: Dr. Vandana Gambhir, Assistant Professor in Psychology, University of Delhi, India

Current Roles:

Co-Chair, Ethics and Standards Committee, APCDA

Career Coach, National Career Service, Govt. of India

Bio:



With a passion for career counselling, I have dedicated my career to addressing the growing need for career guidance and the demand for a skilled workforce worldwide. My long and proud association with the APCDA includes serving as the India Country Director for four consecutive years, Co-chair of Ethics and Standards Committee, and receiving the Young Scholar's Award and Career Practitioner Award. I have contributed to the APCDA Journal with a lead article on the Multidimensional Career Decision-Making Battery and have conducted international webinars on identifying potential STEM career candidates. Additionally, I have been an active contributor to the APCDA Glossary Project and have written numerous articles for the APCDA newsletter, covering various career development topics. As a registered career counsellor with the National Career Services, Government of India, and an internationally certified career coach, I have consistently contributed to the field through publications, webinars, and leadership roles. I have also been invited as a delegate and resource person at numerous prestigious conferences and summits, including the FICCI Higher Education Summit and the Global Skills Summit. A notable aspect of my work has been the creation of several psychometric tools for career and skills assessments, which are widely used by school and university students as well as industry experts. One of these tools can be accessed at [Saina Psychometric Testing](#).

Goal Statement:

As President-Elect, my vision for APCDA focuses on growth, engagement, and leadership development. My goals are: Enhancing Member Engagement through innovative programs that foster community and active participation; Expanding Our Reach by marketing APCDA effectively to increase membership and influence; Developing Future Leaders; and Supporting Regional Representatives with robust leadership support. Additionally, I aim to establish global partnerships, initiate new research projects, and enhance our digital presence with comprehensive online resources and interactive platforms for member collaboration and professional development. By focusing on these

areas, we can create a dynamic and forward-thinking association that meets the evolving needs of our members and the broader community.

Candidate #2: Elisabeth P. Montgomery, Ph.D., GCDF – President, InterLangua LLC, InterLangua Software (Shenzhen) LLC, and Whereabouts Career Academy (Beta in Chinese).

Bio



With a Ph.D. in Human Organizational Systems and a strong foundation in business and counseling, my career has been marked by pioneering global success initiatives across the United States, Central and South America, China, and the Pacific Rim. Highlights include:

- Served as First Foreign Senior Advisor for Internationalization at the Shenzhen Nanshan Education Bureau and led curricula reforms for managers, university students, and K-12 students.
- Developed the First Foreign Vice Principal position at South China University of Science and Technology Experimental public schools, driving impactful community career education initiatives with schools, parents, industry leaders, and entrepreneurs.
- Integrated world systems climate change insights into career education programs, focusing on economic development programs and workforce security in the Asia Pacific regions in partnership with UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and experts in Circular Economy and Stockholm Resilience Centre on Planetary Boundaries.

Goal Statement

I am committed to:

- Enhancing member engagement and increasing participation in APCDA, rooted in multicultural career global competencies and industry collaboration to address global workforce needs.
- Developing a compelling value proposition to attract new members and elevate our organization's profile.
- Creating pathways for our members to thrive in an interconnected world, propelling APCDA to new heights of growth, innovation, and equity.

Candidate #3: Gaini Yessembekova, Director of the Nazarbayev University Career and Advising Center (CAC), Astana, Kazakhstan

Bio:



Gaini Yessembekova is an experienced professional with over 20 years of leadership and management level. She currently serves as the Director of the Nazarbayev University Career and Advising Center (CAC). Under her leadership, CAC effectively supports Nazarbayev University's mission by providing comprehensive career services to students and alumni, assisting in the improvement of education and research in Kazakhstan. Her extensive experience, coupled with her ability to forge and cultivate strong partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders, has been instrumental in her successful leadership at the CAC and her active involvement with

the APCDA.

Gaini's notable achievements include hosting the first hybrid APCDA conference in Kazakhstan in 2023, demonstrating her ability to successfully manage and implement meaningful projects. As the driving force behind the creation of KazCDA, a Kazakhstan Chapter of APCDA in 2024, she has demonstrated a commitment to uniting career development professionals in Kazakhstan. Her role as Co-Chair of APCDA's Public Relations Committee and Committee Council Representative further highlights her dedication to advancing the field of career development.

Goal Statement:

As APCDA President, I would:

- Ensuring the sustainable growth of APCDA by creating favorable conditions for the professional development of its members, thereby positioning them as key contributors to educational and economic progress.
- Promoting enhanced interaction among career development professionals by providing broad access to knowledge and opportunities to share experiences in both face-to-face and virtual formats.
- Strengthening APCDA's presence in the region and beyond by attracting new members and partners while supporting existing members through various initiatives and programs.
- Developing and implementing new initiatives and projects aimed at improving the services offered by APCDA and incorporating best practices in organizational management and event execution.