

Career Services Celebrate National Career Development Month

Hello Wake Tech! This is Career Coach Larry Tucker. It's time to level up, because November is National Career Development Month. And Career Services has tons of events and activities designed to help you take your career to the next level. So let's get to it!

November 15th through November 19th is National Career Development Week. And November 17th is National Career Development Day. My guest today is Career Coach Morgan Ray. Morgan is the Co-Chair for North Carolina's National Career Development Month's Committee.

Larry: Hello Morgan, thank you for joining us today. And welcome to Career Vision 20/20 Podcast.

Morgan: Thank you so much Larry. Thank you for having me.

Larry: Thank you for being here Morgan. What can you tell us about National Career Development Week and your role as Co-Chair for the North Carolina National Career Development Month's 56th North Carolina Poetry and Art Contest?

Morgan: Yes sure. Well Larry, I am the Co-Chair with the North Carolina's Committee of Career Development. Which goes by the North Carolina Career Development Association. And the great thing about having these State based association is that in addition to activities that we try to hold for our citizens in our state, to have a better understanding and explore career development. We also participate in the poetry and art contest that happens at a national level as well. But the really great thing is that myself and my Co-Chair Ms. Kelsie Hines. This will be our second year taking on this project if you will, for the national poetry and art contest. And basically, each year there is a theme. Each year we get to advertise to a wide variety of students, or even general participants. This contest is open to the K-12 population. College student population. And adults who just like to express themselves artistically, via poetry, or whether it's digital media art, or just taking it back to drawing and painting things related to career development. And so, Ms. Hines and I, as I said before we advertise it. We try to find ways to connect with the school system and adults. And we also coordinate the collection and judging of the pieces that are submitted.

Larry: Oh wow! I like that mixture of creativity and technology. So people can tap into their creative side. I see that this year's theme is "the future of work: the role of artificial intelligence and automation." So, if someone from our listening audience wanted to participate, what can you tell them that the committee would be looking for?

Morgan: Right. Some of the things that the committee who will be judging the pieces will be looking for is a really strong sense of creativity. We want to see things that are kind of outside of the box, and really hitting close to home to what that theme is. Really what it represents and what it means for you. There is no specific right or wrong way to express

how an individual feels about career development. And we want to clearly see that connection as well. And the really fun think about the theme is chosen by the current president of the National Career Development Association. So, the sitting president chose this theme. And this theme also corresponds to the NCDA's conference theme that will be taking place next year. So, we want to see creativity, we want to see connections, we just want to see different things all together. You know. So, there is no right or wrong way to do this. We just want to see your creativity expressed and how it relates to career development in general.

Larry: But you've got to be in it to win it!

Morgan: Yes! And it's really a great contest. The really great thing about the North Carolina Contest is that we are only one of a few states that offer monetary prizes.

Larry: Did you say monetary prizes?

Morgan: Yes, Yes. Our students have an opportunity to win a little bit of money for their art work and poetry. And we have a lot of different divisions as well. And that really opens up the playing field for more submissions. So, just to kind of give you a run down. The contest is open for the primary grades which are grades K-2. The intermediate level is grades 3-5. Middle is 6-8. Senior is 9-12. And then, we also have the two adult divisions. The first adult division is for ages 18 and over that are enrolled in school. And the second adult division is for adults ages 18 and older not enrolled in school. And that can be Counselors, teachers, parents of children who are also submitting. So it really gives an opportunity for everyone to participate, and just more submissions to be received. And first prize for each of those divisions is \$50. Second prize is \$25. And third prize is \$10. And all winners will receive a certificate as well.

Larry: If I were interested in participating in the art contest or the poetry contest, when should I have my entries in?

Morgan: Your entries should be submitted via email, or via upload, by December 20, 2021.

Larry: December 20th of this year.

Morgan: Yes! And then all winners of the State contest, myself and Ms. Hines will forward them to the National Contest automatically. They will automatically entered into the national contest.

Larry: Wow, so this is our opportunity to get national recognition.

Morgan: Yes!

Larry: Great! So, Morgan. Where can our audience go for more information?

Morgan: Our audience can visit [NCCDAonline.org/poetryandartcontest](https://nccdaonline.org/poetryandartcontest) for more information on how to submit their pieces and get more information about the qualifications and how the pieces should be submitted as well. And my contact information is also listed on the website.

Larry: Well sign me up. So this is your opportunity, if you are a poet and don't know it, this is your opportunity to show it. Thank you so much Morgan Ray for being here on Career Vision 20/20 podcast today. And thank you and I'm sure many of our listeners will probably try to get in and will the poetry or art contest. Thank you and have a wonderful day.

Morgan: You do the same Larry, thank you!

I want to thank Morgan again for that interview and for sharing some insights about the national as well as the North Carolina Career Development Months Poetry and Art Contest. But as I said in my opening, Wake Tech Career Services is celebrating National Career Development Month with some exciting career development events and activities that are designed to help you take your career to the next level. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, November 3rd, at 12:00 PM. Career Services will be collaborating with the Michael Eure Show and the North Carolina Museum of Science for a career spotlight panel focusing careers in the IT industry. And on Friday, November 5th, at 12:00 PM, Career Services will be sponsoring a virtual session entitled "Skills and Talents versus Passion." And on Tuesday, November 9th, between 1:00 and 3:00 PM, Career Services will be presenting an interactive virtual tour of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory. And again on Wednesday, November 17th, at 12:00 PM, Career Services will be collaborating with the Michael Eure Show and the North Carolina Museum of Science to explore career and volunteer opportunities with the North Carolina Museum of Natural science. And if you are someone who is experiencing uncertainty in your life or in your career, mark your calendar for Thursday, November 18th, at 12:00 PM. You will be able to gain insight on how to become mindfully connected along your career journey, in our virtual session entitled "From Mindful to Mindfulness in Career Decisions." Please check out our website at careers.waketech.edu. That is careers.waketech.edu. Or follow us on Twitter, Facebook or Instagram for more information about these exciting career development activities for the month of November.