

CAREER DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE ELECTIONS 2014



CANDIDATE STATEMENT

Post applied for: Director – without portfolio

Candidate's Name: Gary Forrest

1. Brief details of relevant experience of the career development profession/s. (max 150 words)

I have worked at a national level in the career development field for nearly 30 years, providing training, advisory support and resource materials.

I started my career as a teacher and careers coordinator in secondary education, before a management role at the Careers Research and Advisory Centre (CRAC).

For 12 years I was regional director at the Centre for Education and Industry, University of Warwick, during which time I designed and delivered post-graduate accredited training for career professionals.

I was strategic manager at the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), where I was responsible for advising ministers on policy on careers. I wrote guidance on career and work-related education, disseminated to all schools and colleges and was responsible for the accreditation of career-related qualifications.

I have been a director of the CDI since last April, during which time I have produced written material and training in support of career development and represented the CDI at meetings.

2. Brief details of relevant experience of serving on Boards or Committees of this kind (max 150 words)

I have extensive experience of being a member of and running boards and committees. The ones most relevant to this role include:

Director of the CDI April 2013- present

Director of the Institute for Education Business Excellence

Member of a variety of government boards and committees, including: IAG National Standards; Employability Skills; Education and Employers Taskforce.

Member of the Management Board of the Bath Education Trust

3. Personal statement of views about the CDI and this role (max 200 words)

Having been on the board for just one year, I would like to extend my term of office. This would enable me to make the best contribution to the development of the CDI. I know what the challenges are and want to continue the work to establish us as the voice of authority in the careers world.

As a committed and passionate member, I want to play a leading role in ensuring the CDI's success as a commercially viable organisation. I want to help create an organisation that's fit for purpose, supports the needs of our members and plays a leading role in assuring high quality career development opportunities are available for all.

I believe I bring a number of important attributes to the board, namely: experience of dealing with government; policy and operational expertise; national reputation in careers and work-related education; employer engagement; strategic management; knowledge of national and international developments in career development learning; experienced writer; experience of being a board member of similar organisations.

I have experience of working throughout the UK and believe it is important that we develop an appropriate offer for members in all nations. I also believe that the CDI can gain from engagement with overseas partners, where such activity benefits our members.

There is much to be done and I feel we've only just started!