

National Council on Teacher Retirement

RESOLUTIONS



Adopted at the

**NCTR 96th Annual Conference
Annual Business Meeting**

**October 6, 2018
2:15 pm**

Presented by:
The 2018 NCTR Resolutions Committee

TABLE OF CONTENTS

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Richard Miller.....	3
Submitted by: Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi	
James A. Perry.....	4
Submitted by: Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System	

IN APPRECIATION

Feryle Borgeson.....	5
Submitted by: The St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association	
Stuart Cagle	6
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana	
T. Karen Charleston.....	8
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Texas	
Michael Gessner	9
Submitted by: North Dakota Teacher Fund for Retirement Board	
Kathy Manning	10
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana	
Roy A. Mongrue, Jr.	11
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana	
Neshelle Nogess	12
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana	
Carlos J. Sam	13
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana	
Maureen H. Westgard.....	14
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana	



**IN MEMORIAM
DR. RICHARD MILLER**

WHEREAS, Dr. Richard Charles Miller served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi from 1993 until 2008 representing members employed by the Mississippi Institutions of Higher Learning and from 2011 until 2017 representing retirees; and

WHEREAS, during Dr. Miller's nearly 22 years of service, he served on each committee of the Board and served as board chairman from 2000 until 2001; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller was a commendable trustee, honorably protecting the interests of the pension system and its members; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller was originally from Hartford, Connecticut, earned a bachelor's degree from Harvard College, a Doctorate of Medicine from Harvard Medical School, and was the first surgeon in Mississippi specializing in pediatrics; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller served the University of Mississippi Medical Center for 43 years, caring for infants and children, training new physicians and holding administrative roles, including interim Chairs of the Anesthesiology and Surgery Departments, Associate Dean for Clinical Affairs, and Medical Director of University Hospital; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller contributed greatly to the national discussion on retirement security for teachers and other public employees by representing the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi at the National Council on Teacher Retirement for many years; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller was admired by retirement leaders across the country and well known for his hobby of photography and his annual distribution of conference photos during National Council on Teacher Retirement conferences; and

WHEREAS, Dr. Miller always exhibited a commitment to preserving the defined benefit structure of the retirement plan; to maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and integrity; and to seeking optimal performance from the System's investments; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on this eighth day of October 2018, The National Council on Teacher Retirement joins the Board of Trustees and staff of the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi to honor Dr. Miller's valued contributions and express appreciation for his dedicated service to the Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Dr. Miller's family and be included in the proceedings of the 96th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Public Employees' Retirement System of Mississippi



**IN MEMORIAM
JAMES A. PERRY**

WHEREAS, Mr. James A. Perry, retired Executive Director of the Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System (PSERS), passed away on February 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perry was Executive Director of the PSERS from 1984 to 1999 and admirably served the members, retirees, and school employers of PSERS with professionalism and dedication; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perry was an outstanding pension administrator who deserves much credit for the strong foundation he built and nurtured at PSERS; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perry was an active member of the National Council on Teacher Retirement through 2017, including serving a term as President in 1994; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Perry remained a leader in the pension community after his retirement from PSERS and founded a state-wide organization in 2005, the Pennsylvania Association of Public Employee Retirement Systems (PAPERS), to encourage and facilitate education in all matters related to the fiduciary duties of its PA public retirement systems membership; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that PSERS will fondly remember and remain ever grateful for Mr. Perry's service and commitment; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the National Council on Teacher Retirement joins PSERS to acknowledge the passing of James A. Perry and honors his life and achievements and will present a copy of this resolution to Mr. Perry's family and include it in the proceedings of the 96th Annual Convention of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Pennsylvania Public School Employees' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION
FERYLE BORGESON**

WHEREAS, Feryle Borgeson served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association for 30 years, from January 1989 to January 2019; and

WHEREAS, over the course of his tenure on the Board, Feryle served in numerous leadership roles, including as President and Vice President of the Board, and as a member of the Executive, Investment, and Personnel Committees; and

WHEREAS, the entire SPTRFA membership has benefited greatly from his wisdom, dedication, and experience, particularly in the field of investments and legislative matters; and

WHEREAS, throughout his 30 plus years as a professional educator in St. Paul and North Dakota, Feryle worked tirelessly on behalf of his students, fellow teachers, and community, by among other things: teaching mathematics and science to countless future citizen-leaders; serving as President of the Finley Education Association; serving in numerous roles for the St. Paul Federation of Teachers including: Building Steward; Contract Negotiations team; the Federation Executive Committee, the Teachers Advisory Board, and the Committee on Political Education; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of his outstanding contributions and selfless service, Feryle was awarded the St. Paul Federation of Teachers highest honor, the Mary McGough Distinguished Service Award; and

WHEREAS, Feryle was a tireless supporter and long-time member of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, where he, among other things, served on the Credentials Committee; and

WHEREAS, throughout his extraordinary career, Feryle has been unreservedly dedicated to two of our nation's most important missions - educating our country's future leaders and safeguarding the retirement security of the educators who so selflessly serve our citizens; and

WHEREAS, Feryle has proudly spent over five decades serving the students, teachers, and community of St. Paul with dedication, passion and distinction, the SPTRFA Board of Trustees, Staff, and Members thank him for his remarkable efforts and wish him and his wife, Betty, all the best in their well-deserved retirement; and now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Council on Teacher Retirement expresses its appreciation to Feryle Borgeson for his distinguished service to the St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Feryle Borgeson and be included in the proceedings of the 96th Annual Convention of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: The St. Paul Teachers' Retirement Fund Association



**IN APPRECIATION
STUART CAGLE**

WHEREAS, Stuart Cagle, has served as Deputy Director since January 2007, responsible for the administration of TRSL through the direct supervision of the accounting, human resources, and information technology departments as well as oversight over the retirement, administrative services, and employer services departments through the System's Assistant Director;

WHEREAS, prior to becoming Deputy Director, Mr. Cagle served as an Audit Supervisor for four years, starting in 1999 before being promoted to Audit Director in 2003 and serving in that capacity for another four years;

WHEREAS, Mr. Cagle is a Certified Public Accountant and a Certified Internal Auditor whose knowledge and professionalism in all matters related to finance, accounting, and auditing have been beneficial to the agency for almost 20 years.

WHEREAS, for the past 10 years, Mr. Cagle has been the chief architect of the retirement system's operating budget, ensuring agency dollars are appropriated in a manner that enables the System to faithfully perform its statutory obligations, and has always been a prudent financial steward of agency resources;

WHEREAS, Mr. Cagle has provided steady leadership and clear direction as the retirement system updated its technological capabilities through conversion to a more robust and reliable computing framework for the management and data processing of more than 190,000 member records, and for which all programming was handled by in-house staff;

WHEREAS, Mr. Cagle was instrumental in the System's development of enhanced and focused services to address employer needs through the assignment of staff dedicated to an employer support services section, which would later become a full-fledged department, providing a comprehensive array of assistance, including enrollment and reporting support as well as on-site, customized education;

WHEREAS, Mr. Cagle is a proven leader who has dealt with key strategic issues, representing the retirement system at legislative and other governmental meetings; and speaking on behalf of the System at conferences and events for professional organizations, including meetings for the business officers of TRSL's reporting agencies;

WHEREAS, during Mr. Cagle's tenure, the System was recognized every year by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for excellence in financial reporting for the System's annual comprehensive and summary financial reports;

WHEREAS, Mr. Cagle, as the first person to hold the position of deputy director at TRSL, has set a high bar for all successors as he has always demonstrated true commitment, integrity, and ability in executing the duties and responsibilities of the position; now, therefore, be it



RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Mr. Stuart Cagle for his dedicated service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Stuart Cagle, and that it be included in the proceedings of 96th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION
T. KAREN CHARLESTON**

WHEREAS, T. Karen Charleston has served as a member of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) Board of Trustees from September 2011 through November 2017, mindful of her duty as caretaker of a trust to those who teach or otherwise serve Texas’ children and thereby shape its future; and

WHEREAS, she has provided leadership to the Texas system during a time when the retirement system grew to more than 1.5 million members and annuitants; management controls were strengthened, new investment allocations and procedures were adopted and implemented, the State Auditor’s Office reports provided unqualified opinions with no material findings, and TRS annually received the “Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting” from the Government Finance Officers Association; and

WHEREAS, she served TRS in numerous ways, including as chair of the Risk Committee, and as a member of Audit, Benefits and Budget Committees; and

WHEREAS, she served on the board at a time when TRS conducted an important legislative study on pension fund sustainability, which enabled the legislature to make modifications that made the pension fund actuarially sound, allowing for the first permanent cost-of-living increase for a majority of retirees in more than a decade; and

WHEREAS, she served on the board during the time of TRS’ 75th Anniversary and joined other trustees in commemorating that special event; and

WHEREAS, she helped guide the agency through prudent oversight of trust assets when the TRS Pension Fund grew from approximately \$107 billion in September 2011 to more than \$147 billion when her service ended in December 2017; and

WHEREAS, she always had the best interest of our members and retirees at heart, serving the educators of Texas—current, past and future—with a sense of responsibility, compassion and concern for all; and

WHEREAS, she contributed greatly to the national discussion on retirement security for teachers and other public employees by representing TRS at the National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR) and serving as a member of NCTR’s Resolutions Committee; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that on this ninth day of October 2018, the National Council on Teacher Retirement joins the Texas Retirement System of Texas Board of Trustees and staff in recognizing the accomplishments and contributions of T. Karen Charleston, honor her valued contributions and express appreciation for her dedicated service to TRS and NCTR; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ms. T. Karen Charleston.

Submitted by: Teacher Retirement System of Texas



**IN APPRECIATION OF
MICHAEL GESSNER**

WHEREAS, Mr. Michael Gessner has served as trustee of the ND Teachers' Fund for Retirement Board representing active teachers for 13 years, from 2005 until his retirement in 2018, assuming the leadership positions of Vice President for two years and President for 11 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gessner has also served on the ND State Investment Board and Audit Committee representing TFFR members during his tenure; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gessner has dedicated his entire professional career to the ND education community as a caring, respected, and outstanding Math Teacher at Minot Public Schools for 46 years; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gessner has been actively involved in many professional, community, and state activities and associations during his teaching career; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gessner has been committed to preserving the defined benefit structure of the TFFR plan to provide lifetime retirement security for ND educators and their beneficiaries; to prudently investing trust fund assets; to supporting efforts to strengthen TFFR's funding structure; and to safeguarding the financial integrity of the fund; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gessner has provided steadfast leadership on pension issues, and earned a reputation as a strong advocate for protecting the retirement interests of education professionals, providing cost efficient pension administration, and delivering high-quality customer service; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gessner has distinguished himself as an outstanding trustee whose knowledge, experience, integrity, and courage has respectfully served trust fund members; now therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the ND TFFR Board express its sincere appreciation to Mr. Gessner for his dedicated service to the Board, and for his unwavering support of educators, students, and citizens of North Dakota; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Board extends its best wishes to Mike, and his wife, Sibley, for a long and happy retirement; and be it further

RESOLVED, that a copy of this Resolution be presented to Mr. Gessner, printed in the official TFFR Board minutes, and submitted to the National Council on Teacher Retirement, on behalf of the many lives he has so positively touched.

Submitted By: North Dakota Teacher Fund for Retirement Board



**IN APPRECIATION
KATHY MANNING**

WHEREAS, Kathy Manning served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana from January 1, 2010, through December 31, 2017, representing active members who are paid with school food service funds;

WHEREAS, during her tenure on the Board, Ms. Manning served on the Legislative and Executive committees, as well as chair of the Personnel, Membership & Entitlements, Budget & Finance, and Elections committees; and vice chair of the Investments committee;

WHEREAS, Ms. Manning has been an outstanding fiduciary of the Trust, maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and integrity and exhibiting a commitment to the preservation of the defined benefit plan structure as a means to provide reliable retirement income to TRSL retirees and their beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, Ms. Manning has been an unwavering advocate for safeguarding the financial integrity of the System; supporting investment strategies that continuously enhance fiscal soundness and stability, most notably in Fiscal Year 2017 when the market rate of return increased to 16.5 percent, making TRSL the second highest performing pension fund that year among public plans with assets greater than \$1.0 billion and assets reached an all-time high of \$19.5 billion;

WHEREAS, Ms. Manning and the Board oversaw the implementation of sweeping, yet beneficial changes to the administration of the retirement system, ensuring its fiscal soundness, sustainability, and integrity, which included tying new benefits to an identifiable funding source; re-amortizing the UAL to provide for more level payments; creating a new tier of retirement benefits for prospective members; and implementing new provisions for retirees who return to work;

WHEREAS, Ms. Manning has shown exemplary dedication in the critical areas of school nutrition and education leadership, with more than 28 years of experience in the school food service profession in East Carroll and Natchitoches parishes as well as the Recovery School District and the Central Community School System;

WHEREAS, Ms. Manning's service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana was performed with unwavering dedication and commitment, as well as the incomparable qualities of honor, duty, and integrity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Ms. Kathy Manning for her dedicated service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Kathy Manning, and that it be included in the proceedings of 96th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION
ROY A. MONGRUE, JR.**

WHEREAS, Roy A. Mongrue, Jr., has served as General Counsel at the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) since July 2007, acting as legal advisor to the Board of Trustees and in-house counsel to retirement system administration and staff;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue, who earned his Juris Doctorate from LSU's Paul M. Hebert Law Center in 1978, has four decades of experience and expertise in the Louisiana Civil Code—a unique system of laws originating from France's Napoleonic Code and only practiced in Louisiana;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue has provided sound and reliable guidance in all matters related to TRSL, ensuring interests of the System and its members are protected, as well as operational and fiduciary responsibilities of the Board are met;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue has been instrumental in overseeing securities litigation cases that affect System assets, including successfully resolving class-action lawsuits against Tyco International and Pfizer, Inc.;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue, prior to becoming TRSL's General Counsel, served as the Director of the Civil Division for the Louisiana Department of Justice where he led a team of attorneys responsible for representing the State of Louisiana in litigation, including challenges to the constitutionality of state laws as well as providing legal advice to state agencies and public officials;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue, has proven himself to be a respected member of the legal community whose opinions, analysis, and insight on issues affecting the System carry significant weight in many areas of state government, including the Legislature;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue's knowledge and professionalism have been beneficial to the agency for more than 10 years, and he has been an invaluable member of the executive management team;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue's deep and extensive understanding of Louisiana law in general and retirement law in particular have served the interests of the retirement system well and have solidified TRSL's reputation as a reliable and responsive state agency;

WHEREAS, Mr. Mongrue's service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana was performed with true dedication and unwavering commitment;

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Mr. Roy A. Mongrue, Jr. for his dedicated service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Roy A. Mongrue, Jr., and that it be included in the proceedings of 96th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION
NESHELLE NOGESS**

WHEREAS, Neshelle Nogess served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana from November 3, 2016, through November 2, 2017, representing active members employed in District 1 which includes the parishes of Ascension, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John;

WHEREAS, during her tenure on the Board, Ms. Nogess served on the Investment and Personnel committees and always offered insightful analysis on matters considered by the Board, particularly those that protect the fiscal soundness of the System;

WHEREAS, Ms. Nogess has been a commendable trustee, maintaining the highest levels of professionalism and integrity and exhibiting a commitment to the preservation of the defined benefit plan structure as a means to provide reliable retirement income to TRSL retirees and their beneficiaries;

WHEREAS, Ms. Nogess supported investment strategies that produced optimal asset performance, most notably in Fiscal Year 2017 when the market rate of return increased to 16.5 percent, making TRSL the second highest performing pension fund that year among public plans with assets greater than \$1.0 billion and assets reached an all-time high of \$19.5 billion;

WHEREAS, Ms. Nogess worked diligently with the Board to strengthen the System, which has been recognized for its cost-efficient pension administration, high-quality customer service, and high-performing investment program;

WHEREAS, Ms. Nogess has a wealth of financial and taxation experience, including leadership positions in the Louisiana Association of Tax Administrators, that has been beneficial to the State of Louisiana in general and St. James Parish School Board in particular;

WHEREAS, Ms. Nogess' service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana was performed with unwavering dedication and commitment, as well as the incomparable qualities of honor, duty, and integrity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Ms. Neshelle Nogess for her dedicated service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Neshelle Nogess, and that it be included in the proceedings of 96th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION
CARLOS J. SAM**

WHEREAS, Mr. Carlos J. Sam served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana from August 4, 2016, through November 2, 2017, representing active members employed as city and parish public school superintendents;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sam also served on the board from November 2011 through July 2015, representing active members employed in District 3 which includes the parishes of Assumption, East Baton Rouge, Iberville, Lafourche, and Terrebonne;

WHEREAS, during his most recent service on the board, Mr. Sam served as chair of the Budget & Finance committee and held positions on the Elections, Legislative, Membership & Entitlements, Investments, Personnel, and Executive committees;

WHEREAS, throughout the entirety of Mr. Sam's tenure on the board, he has provided solid leadership and true commitment to the System and its members, working to preserve the defined benefit plan structure for those who have dedicated their lives to the education profession;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sam has contributed thoughtful analysis and guidance on numerous issues affecting the System and its members, including supporting legislation that enhances the fiscal soundness and sustainability of the System, while opposing efforts that sought to adversely impact the benefit structure of the plan or its operational and investment functions;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sam has worked diligently to strengthen the System's investment position, which has enabled the program to achieve record returns and assets, most notably during Fiscal Year 2017 when the market rate of return increased to 16.5 percent, making TRSL the second highest performing pension fund that year among public plans with assets greater than \$1.0 billion and assets reached an all-time high of \$19.5 billion;

WHEREAS, for the last 27 years, Mr. Sam has admirably served the educational community, making an immediate and meaningful impact on East Feliciana Public Schools since his 2015 appointment as superintendent, and before that in his many leadership roles at the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, including interim superintendent, associate superintendent for support services, and principal;

WHEREAS, Mr. Sam's service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana was performed with unwavering dedication and commitment that meets the highest standards of honor and integrity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Mr. Carlos J. Sam for his dedicated service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Carlos J. Sam, and that it be included in the proceedings of 96th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION
MAUREEN H. WESTGARD**

WHEREAS, Maureen H. Westgard, faithfully served the Board of Trustees, the staff, and the membership of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) as director for more than 12 years;

WHEREAS, one of Ms. Westgard's first, yet unanticipated, duties upon starting her job as director was to oversee the agency's response to Hurricane Katrina—one of the worst natural disasters in U.S. history—which included providing expanded services to affected members; implementing hurricane-related legislation designed to bring economic relief; and providing moral support to many staff members who themselves were dealing with the aftermath of the storm;

WHEREAS, under Ms. Westgard's direction, the retirement system was acknowledged every year by CEM Benchmarking for providing high-quality, low-cost member services and outperforming peers in performance and cost-effectiveness; was recognized for administering a high-value, low-cost investment program that achieved higher returns at a lower median cost than peers and ultimately resulted in the System's assets growing from \$14 billion in her first year as TRSL director to more than \$19.5 billion;

WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard provided exceptional leadership and guidance to the Board throughout her tenure, ensuring trustees not only received the information they needed to make critical decisions about legislation, investments, and policy, but also remained in compliance with all statutory requirements, including trustee education and annual ethics reporting;

WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard worked with three governors and countless legislators, forging solid working relationships with many in the executive and legislative branches of government that helped to foster a better understanding of retirement issues in general and the importance of sufficiently funding defined benefit plans in particular;

WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard's countless hours devoted to building relationships with stakeholders throughout the state were instrumental in educating the public about the benefits of pensions to local economies; protecting the System from harmful legislation; and implementing pension reforms that enhance the financial position of the System, save billions in taxpayer dollars, and protect retirement security for members;

WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard, provided strong and steady leadership at TRSL—a large institutional investor with a long-term investment horizon—in both good times and challenging ones, most notably during the Great Recession of 2008-2009 when stocks across the globe tumbled as well as in recent years when the System achieved record returns and assets reached new highs;

WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard has been a ceaseless champion of the defined benefit plan as the secure retirement option for those who dedicate their lives to public service, and whose passionate testimony before legislative committees often drew praise and heartfelt appreciation from TRSL members;



WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard set an example of absolute professionalism for every member of the staff, providing resources and promoting initiatives to enrich the work environment and culture and encourage self-development, including adopting the Balanced Scorecard to ensure agency operations and goals were aligned; introducing the FISH philosophy—inspired by famous Pike Place Fish Market in her hometown of Seattle—that offered a fresh perspective on customer service; conducting routine leadership meetings to share “big picture” agency information with supervisors at every level; and hosting brown bag lunches to offer all employees an opportunity to hear from guest speakers on issues of interest;

WHEREAS, during Ms. Westgard’s tenure, the System was recognized every year by two leading pension and financial associations—the Government Finance Officers Association’s certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for the System’s *Comprehensive Annual Financial Report* and its *Popular Annual Financial Report*; as well as the Public Pension Coordinating Council’s pension standards award for management and funding;

WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard’s extensive knowledge of the pension industry as well as her integrity, honesty, and transparency have served the interests of the retirement system well and have solidified TRSL’s reputation as a reliable and responsive state agency;

WHEREAS, Ms. Westgard’s service to the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana was performed with the highest degree of dedication, and commitment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Ms. Maureen Westgard for her dedicated service to the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana as director; and be it further

RESOLVED, That this Resolution be presented to Maureen Westgard, and that it be included in the proceedings of 96th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2018.

Submitted by: Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana

