

# **National Council on Teacher Retirement**

## **RESOLUTIONS**



**Adopted at the**

**NCTR 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference  
Annual Business Meeting**

**October 15, 2019  
2:00 pm**

*Presented by:*  
**The 2019 NCTR Resolutions Committee**

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**IN MEMORIAM  
JOHN E. JENSEN**

**WHEREAS**, John had a 36-year career with the Omaha Public Schools, as a physics and mathematics teacher at Benson High School and as a curriculum specialist for Mathematics, Science and Technology at South High School;

**WHEREAS**, John served on the Board of Trustees of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System from 1979 – 2003, and was Vice President of the Board from 1985-2003;

**WHEREAS**, John became involved in the National Council on Teacher Retirement, serving on various NCTR committees, including the NCTR Executive Committee, and was NCTR President in 2001-2002, and was the first Trustee to ever serve as NCTR President;

**WHEREAS**, John was focused on the needs of students in the Omaha Public Schools and served on the Board for the OEA Foundation from the early 1980s until he died, and was instrumental in arranging the investments for the OEA Foundation be able to sustain student scholarships for the foreseeable future. In 2018, the OEA Foundation awarded nearly 100 scholarships totaling more than \$385,000 to deserving students intent on achieving a higher education degree, and John was involved in selecting and awarding the scholarships;

**WHEREAS**, John served as president of the following organizations during both his working career and his retirement years: Omaha Education Association; Omaha Education Association-Retired; and the National Council on Teacher Retirement;

**WHEREAS**, John was an officer in the following organizations during both his working career and his retirement years: Nebraska State Education Association, Nebraska State Education Association-Retired, National Education Association, National Education Association-Retired, The Alliance for Retired Americans, and First Nebraska Credit Union;

**WHEREAS**, during his working and retired life John advocated tirelessly for adequate and improved benefits and rights for educators at the school district level, the state level, and the national level;

**WHEREAS**, John died in October 2018 and on hearing of John's passing, it was said, "a true warrior has passed," and "the pension community has lost a great advocate and an icon;"

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System expresses its utmost gratitude for John's unwavering commitment to education and his passion pursuing a secure retirement for the men and women who serve the Omaha Public Schools; now be it

**RESOLVED**, that NCTR expresses its appreciation for John's contributions to the Council over the years and for his dedicated years of service on the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to the Jensen family and be included in the proceedings of the 97th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Omaha School Employees' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION  
SHERYL R. ABSHIRE**

**WHEREAS**, Sheryl R. Abshire, Ph.D. has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for 28 years, from January 11, 1991, through December 31, 2018, representing active members employed in District 7, which includes Acadia, Calcasieu, Cameron, Iberia, Lafayette, St. Mary, and Vermilion parishes; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure as a trustee, Dr. Abshire has served on all committees of the TRSL Board, and her fellow trustees have expressed great confidence in her leadership by electing her Board Chair for which she served from 2005 to 2008, and also Vice Chair, serving from 2001 to 2004, and again from 2011 to 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Abshire has been an excellent fiduciary of the Trust, ensuring that System assets are managed in a manner to maximize returns and minimize risk; critically analyzing the investment of resources in numerous financial vehicles; providing clear direction and vision in the allocation of assets, including expanding investments into international and alternative markets which ultimately has resulted in a growth of System assets from \$4 billion in FY 1991 to an all-time high of \$21.05 billion in FY 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Abshire has long championed the defined benefit plan as a secure and appropriate retirement option for those who dedicate their lives to public service and has always been outspoken in this conviction; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Abshire has always been a passionate advocate for the System and its members and has never ceased to play a critical role in protecting member benefits, including voicing support for the implementation of the Deferred Retirement Option Plan (DROP) and the Initial Lump-Sum Benefit (ILSB), which provided members with additional, yet optional, financial opportunities; the establishment of the experience account to facilitate cost-of-living increases to help retirees and their beneficiaries protect their purchasing power against inflation; the granting of COLAs funded through the experience account in 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2007, 2008, 2014, and 2016, and a supplemental retirement benefit in 2009 for retired members living at or below the poverty level; and the extension of emergency provisions and protocols to help members affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita manage their retirement and DROP accounts and service credits; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Abshire has always been unequivocal in her support of efforts to safeguard the fiscal soundness and sustainability of the System for the benefit of members now and long into the future as evidenced in her support of necessary legislation that simultaneously prioritized and stabilized payments to the decades-old unfunded accrued liability; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Abshire's tenure on the board equates to roughly one-third the lifespan of this 81-year old institution and represents a time during which she has worked with five directors, six governors and countless lawmakers; and in which the System was recognized by CEM Benchmarking, Inc. for outperforming peers in cost and service in the areas of pension administration and investment management; and equally as important, her time as a trustee is a reflection of the long and continued trust District 7 constituents have had in her solid judgment and bold leadership; and

**WHEREAS**, as a veteran educator with more than 40 years of service at all levels and areas of instruction, including



the Calcasieu Parish School Board, McNeese State University, Louisiana Tech, and the Louisiana Department of Education, Dr. Abshire has been a vibrant force in the educational community as principal, teacher, library/media specialist, professor, nationally recognized consultant/speaker, and chief technology officer; and has received recognition for her service, including prestigious honors such as the National Christa McAuliffe Award and Public Policy Advocate of the Year Award; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Abshire's service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana was performed with unwavering loyalty, dedication, and commitment on both a personal and professional level; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Dr. Abshire for 28 years of 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 Sheryl R. Abshire, Ph.D., and that it be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION  
JILL BACHUS**

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jill Bachus has astutely served in numerous leadership roles within the Treasury Department, including the role of the Director of the Tennessee Baccalaureate Education System where she was instrumental in molding Tennessee's first 529 college savings program. More recently, Mrs. Bachus has served as the Assistant Treasurer for Financial Strategies and Analysis whereby she oversees the actuarial functions for various Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System matters including legislative studies related to pensions, pension policy concerns and funding of public defined benefit pension plans in Tennessee;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Jill Bachus previously served as the Executive Director of the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) from October 2005 until December 2016 where she had the responsibility of managing over 300,000 members enrolled in the System, which paid out in excess of \$2.5 billion a year in benefits. As Executive Director, Mrs. Bachus recognized the challenges of managing growing pension costs while recruiting and retaining a strong workforce. Under her leadership, the Retirement System was redesigned into the current Hybrid Retirement Plan for State Employees and Teachers that allows the State as an employer to improve the predictability of its costs while providing a better benefit than a traditional pension for state employees and teachers who change jobs during their working lives while also providing career employees with substantial retirement benefits. one such estimable person who has served the good people of this State with distinction and with the greatest of integrity;

**WHEREAS**, prior to becoming the Executive Director, Ms. Bachus served as the Deputy Director of the TCRS for six years responsible for the day to day operations of the system;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bachus has also lent her time and tremendous talents to a number of governmental organizations, including service on the Association of Government Accountants;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bachus was appointed to the Executive Committee of the National Council on Teacher Retirement in 2011 and served as President and Past President of the National Council on Teacher Retirement in 2016 and 2017, respectively, which has combined assets of more than \$2 trillion in trust funds and serves sixty-eight state, territorial and local pension systems representing more than nineteen million active and retired teachers, non-teaching personnel, and other public employees;

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bachus is a Certified Public Accountant, a Certified Government Financial Manager and received her bachelor's and master's degrees in business administration from Middle Tennessee State University. Mrs. Bachus is also a graduate of the Tennessee Government Executive Institute; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bachus' remarkable success as a public servant and civic leader is directly attributable to her reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and her uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Bachus is a public servant of the highest caliber, and her retirement from State government will create a void that will not be easily filled; her considerable talents and presence will be sorely missed by not only the Treasury Department, but all departments of State government and the good people of Tennessee; and



**WHEREAS**, through her exemplary tenure, Mrs. Bachus demonstrated the utmost professionalism, ability, and integrity, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of her colleagues and the public alike, and she should be specially recognized, now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System hereby expresses its appreciation to Mrs. Jill Bachus for her dedicated service to the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System, the Tennessee Treasury Department, and the good people of Tennessee; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be presented to Jill Bachus, and that it be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION  
MARY L. BRODERICK**

**WHEREAS**, Mary L. Broderick served on the Board of the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) with distinction as an active member representative from 2007 through 2019, and for several years as the Vice-President; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Broderick served the students and families of the St. Cloud school district as a special education teacher for 19 years, and served the school district and teachers in St. Cloud as a union representative for 22 years, all with professionalism and dedication; and

**WHEREAS**, during her TRA board service Ms. Broderick helped create the TRA internal audit department in 2009, was a member of the TRA Audit Committee, and a member of the Facilities Management Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, during Ms. Broderick's tenure on the Board, the TRA experienced substantial growth in assets, major enhancements in customer service, and significant advancements in benefit administration technology; and

**WHEREAS**, during Ms. Broderick's tenure on the TRA Board, significant pension reform legislation was passed in 2010 and again in 2018, all with the vision, creativity, and guidance of Ms. Broderick and her concern for the members of the plan and the sustainability of the pension fund; and

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Broderick saw the need to provide adequate retirement benefits for career educators and was a leader in the development of the "age 62 and 30 years of service" provision passed into law in 2013; and

**WHEREAS**, during her TRA Board service Ms. Broderick was an active participant of the National Council on Teacher Retirement and served for many years on its Trustee Education Committee; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019, the National Council on Teacher Retirement joins the members of the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association in extending their grateful appreciation to Mary Broderick and recognize her for her contributions and dedicated service to Minnesota educators, students, and the public school system; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Mary Broderick and be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement.

Submitted by: Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association



**IN APPRECIATION  
BRITT L. COLON**

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Britt L. Colon has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana from November 2, 2017, through July 26, 2018, representing active members employed in District 1, which includes Ascension, Jefferson, Plaquemines, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. James, and St. John parishes; and

**WHEREAS**, during his service on the board, Mr. Colon served on the Membership & Entitlements and Personnel committees; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Colon has shown unwavering 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; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Colon worked to strengthen the System's investment position, which has enabled the program to achieve record returns and assets, most notably during Fiscal Year 2018 with a market rate of return of 11.56%, making TRSL the highest performing pension fund that year among public plans with assets greater than \$1.0 billion, and assets reaching an all-time high of \$21.05 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, for 18 years, Mr. Colon has commendably served the educational community, making a direct and significant impact on Ascension Parish Public Schools since 2002, including being recognized as the Ascension Parish Primary Principal of the Year in the 2015-2016 school year; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Colon's service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana was performed with honor and integrity; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Mr. Colon for his service to the System as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That this Resolution be presented to Mr. Britt L. Colon, and that it be included in the proceedings of the 97th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION  
PAUL J. FARFAGLIA**

**WHEREAS**, Paul J. Farfaglia was a passionate and devoted member of the New York State Teachers' Retirement System Board of Trustees since 2009, and regularly attended NYSTRS Board meetings prior to his election; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farfaglia chaired the Board's Disability Review Committee during most of his Board tenure and served at various times on virtually every Board committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farfaglia modeled the role of a fiduciary, ensuring System assets were invested prudently, NYSTRS' funding structure remained intact even through challenging times, the financial integrity of the fund was always top priority and the defined benefit structure was preserved; and

**WHEREAS**, during his time on the Board the System's net position grew from approximately \$72.5 billion to approximately \$120 billion, enabling the System to remain among the best-funded and most secure retirement systems in the nation, and helping create peace of mind and financial security for NYSTRS' more than 430,000 active and retired members and beneficiaries; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farfaglia dedicated more than 35 years to students in the Jordan-Elbridge Central School District, teaching science at the secondary level and serving as a mentor and role model to the hundreds of students who graced his classrooms; and

**WHEREAS**, he tirelessly served in other capacities, including with the North Syracuse Central School District Board of Education and as past chair of the New York State United Teachers Pension and Retirement Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farfaglia earned a reputation as a respected NYSTRS representative at National Council on Teacher Retirement (NCTR) conferences and workshops, often presenting or serving on panels and always contributing valuable dialogue at NCTR events; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Farfaglia brought warmth, wit and enthusiasm to every aspect of his professional life, yet never shied away from tackling difficult issues; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that NYSTRS' trustees and staff join with the National Council on Teacher Retirement to extend their heartfelt appreciation to Mr. Farfaglia for his distinguished service to both NYSTRS and NCTR; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be included in the proceedings of the 97th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: New York State Teachers' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION  
ROBERT LAWYER**

**WHEREAS**, Robert Lawyer has served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana for eight years, from January 10, 2011, through December 31, 2018, representing active members employed in higher education; and

**WHEREAS**, during his time on the board, Mr. Lawyer served as Board Chair from 2013 to 2016; and chaired the committees for Budget & Finance, Elections, Executive, and Legislative as well as vice chaired the Legislative, Personnel, and Investment committees; and

**WHEREAS**, throughout Mr. Lawyer's service as a trustee, he provided welcome leadership and thoughtful analysis on pension-related issues in times when our state repeatedly faced significant budget challenges, making his commitment to the financial soundness and sustainability of the System through efficient and effective management of System assets all the more commendable; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lawyer has always been steadfast in his work on the Board to preserve the defined benefit structure of the retirement plan; to safeguard the assets TRSL holds in trust that provide lifetime retirement income for System members and their beneficiaries; and to continue protecting the retirement interests of professionals in the educational community, including support of legislation that granted cost-of-living adjustments in 2014 and 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lawyer's voice has been invaluable in decisions impacting the System's investment program, leading to impressive returns and record assets, most notably during FY 2018 when TRSL earned an 11.56% market rate of return, making it the highest performing pension fund among public plans with assets greater than \$1 billion—and enabling its assets to reach an all-time high of \$21.05 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, in each of the years for which Mr. Lawyer served, the retirement system was recognized by a leading benchmarking firm for excellence in pension administration and investment program management; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lawyer has a long and distinguished record of service at institutions of higher education within and outside of Louisiana, including Ohio University, Xavier University of Louisiana, and most recently Delgado Community College where he also assumed a leadership role in the faculty senate as both a senator and senate president; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Lawyer's service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana has been one characterized by his steadfast and uncompromising commitment to honor, duty, and excellence; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Mr. Lawyer for eight years of dedicated service to the System as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That this Resolution be presented to Mr. Robert Lawyer, and that it be included in the proceedings of the 97th Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION  
THERESA M. LOCHTE**

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Theresa M. Lochte was thrice elected by active and retired Maryland educators to represent their interests on the Board of Trustees of the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Theresa M. Lochte, during her dozen years of dedicated and dutiful Board service, was known for her assiduous meeting preparation, studying voluminous agenda and exhibits on benefits, System finance and investments prior to each session;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Theresa M. Lochte unremittingly urged the Board and staff to ensure that members and retirees are provided all the information they need to fully understand their benefits, inspiring the System to improve communications and enhance information accessibility for the betterment of all;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Theresa M. Lochte, through her knowledge, skill and passion for the retirement security of all educators, joined the nationwide movement of pension advocacy, serving multiple terms as an elected member of the National Council on Teacher Retirement Executive Committee;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Theresa M. Lochte, having participated in pension seminars sponsored by the National Education Association, the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School and The Wharton School, freely shared with her fellow Trustees her special insight into national retirement issues and trends;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Theresa M. Lochte, in all her interactions with fellow Trustees, System staff, members and retirees, exhibited a genuine courtesy and cordiality that endeared her to all stakeholders of the System; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, That the National Council on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Ms. Theresa M. Lochte for her dedicated service to the Maryland State Retirement and Pension System as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That this Resolution be presented to Theresa M. Lochte, and that it be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Maryland State Retirement and Pension System



**IN APPRECIATION  
PAUL MOORE**

**WHEREAS**, Paul Moore served on the Board of the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association (TRA) with distinction as a representative of the Commissioner of Minnesota Management and Budget from May 2017 through August 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Moore brought high standards of leadership, honesty, loyalty, dedication, and integrity to the position at all times in working to preserve the sustainability and pension promise for Minnesota educators; and

**WHEREAS**, during Mr. Moore's tenure on the Board, the TRA experienced substantial growth in assets, major enhancements in customer service, and significant advancements in benefit administration technology; and

**WHEREAS**, through his experience and dedication Mr. Moore brought wise counsel in the enactment of legislation and the formulation of policies and regulations bringing continued improvement to the retirement system; and

**WHEREAS**, during Mr. Moore's tenure on the TRA Board, significant pension reform legislation was attempted in 2016 and 2017 and finally passed in 2018 with unanimous votes every step of the way, all with the vision, creativity, and guidance of Mr. Moore and his concern for the members of the plan and the sustainability of the pension fund; and

**WHEREAS**, during his TRA Board service Mr. Moore was an active participant of the National Council on Teacher Retirement and, now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2019, the National Council on Teacher Retirement joins the members of the Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association in extending their grateful appreciation to Paul Moore and recognize him for his contributions and dedicated service to the State of Minnesota and to Minnesota educators, students, and the public school system; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Paul Moore and be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement.

Submitted by: Minnesota Teachers Retirement Association



**IN APPRECIATION  
JAMES (JIM) RIPA**

**WHEREAS**, James (Jim) Ripa served as a Trustee of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System from September 1, 2007 through June 30, 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim supported the maintenance and refining of retirement benefits for both the active and retired membership while working to preserve the actuarial soundness of the System; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim served the members of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System with a passion to ensure members understood the relevance of their pension plan; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim faithfully and eagerly performed his duties of Trustee, giving unselfishly of his time to serve on the Board, greatly impacting critical issues surrounding retirement preparedness of all full-time employees of the Omaha Public Schools; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim was an active participant in the National Council on Teacher Retirement throughout his service on the Board of Trustees and was in regular attendance at the annual trustee workshops and annual conferences; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim diligently served as the representative for the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System at several NCTR business meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, Jim's last day of service to the Board of Trustees of the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System was June 30, 2019; now therefore, be it

**RESOLVED**, that NCTR expresses its appreciation for Jim's contributions to the Council over the years and for his dedicated years of service on the Omaha School Employees' Retirement System; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Jim Ripa and be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Omaha School Employees' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION  
BONI TOLSON**

**WHEREAS**, Boni Tolson served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public School Retirement System of Missouri (KCPSRS) as an elected active member beginning January 1, 2018 until her resignation in August 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, during her brief tenure on the board, Boni Tolson served on the Legislative & Benefits Committee, as well as held the position of chair of the Investment Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, her thoughtful analysis of matters considered by the board, particularly those that impacted the investment portfolio, contributed to the long-term fiscal soundness of the System; and

**WHEREAS**, Boni Tolson is an educator with over twenty years of teaching and school counseling experience with advanced education degrees and a certificate in conflict resolution from the University of Hawaii; and

**WHEREAS**, Boni Tolson's service to the Kansas City Public School Retirement System was performed with a commitment to learning; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that on this 15 day of October 2019, the National Council on Teacher Retirement joins the Kansas City Public School Retirement System of Missouri, to hereby express their appreciation to Ms. Tolson for her dedicated service to KCPSRS as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Boni Tolson and be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Board of the Kansas City Public School Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION  
BAKARI UKUU**

**WHEREAS**, Bakari Ukuu served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Kansas City Public School Retirement System of Missouri (KCPSRS). His was first elected to the Board as an active member effective January 1, 2015 and subsequently re-elected to another four-year term until his resignation in June 2019; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure on the board, Bakari Ukuu served with distinction on the Business & Technology and Investment Committees; and

**WHEREAS**, he was committed to preserving the defined benefit structure of the retirement plan, and to the dedicated work of the Trustees in protecting the interests of the System and its members, including supporting passage of legislation to ensure future funding of the actuarial required contribution rate, providing greater financial stability; and

**WHEREAS**, his passion for improving the educational landscape in Kansas City, Missouri led him to serve in multiple capacities – classroom teacher, instructional coach and vice principal, with a mission to dismantle systems of inequity and expand the opportunities and outcomes for all students; and

**WHEREAS**, his decision to pursue a second master’s degree in education and international development at the University College London, England with a goal of working in international education; and

**WHEREAS**, Bakari Ukuu was an advocate for active members of the Kansas City Public School Retirement System and represented the System at National Council on Teacher Retirement conferences; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, that on this 15 day of October 2019, the National Council on Teacher Retirement joins the Kansas City Public School Retirement System of Missouri, to hereby express their appreciation to Mr. Ukuu for his dedicated service to KCPSRS as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Bakari Ukuu and be included in the proceedings of the 97<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2019.

Submitted by: Board of the Kansas City Public School Retirement System

