

# **National Council on Teacher Retirement**

## **RESOLUTIONS**



**Adopted at the**

**NCTR 101<sup>st</sup> Conference  
Annual Business Meeting**

**October 10, 2023**

*Presented by:*

**The 2023 NCTR Resolutions Committee**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## IN MEMORIAM

Mary Nicholas.....7  
Submitted by: Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System

Rosalyn Schoonmaker.....8  
Submitted by: Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System

## IN APPRECIATION

Kate Allen.....9  
Submitted by: Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems

Horace Coleman, Jr.....10  
Submitted by: Kansas City Public School Retirement System

Randy Gerke.....11  
Submitted by: Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems

Christopher Moss .....12  
Submitted by: Teacher Retirement System of Texas

Dr. Paul E. Nelson.....14  
Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana

Curtis L. Rogers.....15  
Submitted by: Kansas City Public School Retirement System



**IN MEMORIAM  
MARY NICHOLAS**

**WHEREAS**, Mary Nicholas retired from the Vernon Connecticut School system after thirty one years of service and was a highly respected member of the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Nicholas served on the Connecticut Teacher's Retirement System (CTRS) as an active teacher from 1992 to 2009;

**RESOLVED**, that the CTRS Board extends sincere appreciation to Mary Nicholas for her exemplary service and dedication to the CTRS active and retired members and beneficiaries; and be it further;

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ms. Nicholas family and be included in the proceedings of the 101<sup>st</sup> Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System



**IN MEMORIAM  
ROSALYN SCHOONMAKER**

**WHEREAS**, Rosalyn Schoonmaker retired from Bridgeport Connecticut School system after thirty six years of teaching elementary education and was a highly respected member of the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Schoonmaker served as an Officer in the retired teacher organizations, CEA-R and ARTC;

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Schoonmaker served on the Investment Advisory Council with five treasurers.

**WHEREAS**, Ms. Schoonmaker served on the Connecticut Teachers' Retirement Board from 1977 to 2017.

**RESOLVED**, that the CTRS Board extends sincere appreciation to Rosalyn Schoonmaker for her exemplary service and dedication to the CTRS active and retired members and beneficiaries; and be it further;

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Ms. Schoonmaker family and be included in the proceedings of the 101<sup>st</sup> Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Connecticut Teachers' Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION  
KATE ALLEN**

**WHEREAS**, Kate Allen served as Legal Counsel to the Nebraska Legislature's Retirement Committee for more than 30 years, serving the State Senators on the Retirement Committee, the Constituents of the State of Nebraska and the Members of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems, until her resignation in January 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, during her tenure Kate Allen served with distinction researching and drafting retirement legislation; and

**WHEREAS**, Kate Allen was committed to preserving the defined benefit structure of the retirement plans, the success of the defined contribution plans, and to the dedicated work staff of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems and its Trustees by protecting the interests of the Systems and its members, including supporting passage of pension reform legislation providing greater financial stability; and

**WHEREAS**, through prudent research, planning, and a cooperative communications landscape, she helped guide the Nebraska Retirement Systems Legislation through challenging market-cycles and socio-economic landscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, Kate Allen's service to the State of Nebraska was performed with unwavering dedication and commitment; now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Nebraska Retirement Systems, do hereby express their appreciation for the dedicated service provided by Kate as Legal Counsel and Fiduciary and extend their best wishes for good health and happiness in her future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Kate Allen and be included in the proceedings of the 101<sup>st</sup> Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems



**IN APPRECIATION  
HORACE COLEMAN, JR.**

**WHEREAS**, Horace Coleman, Jr., was appointed, and served, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public School Retirement System of the School District of Kansas City, Missouri (KCPSRS / the System) for 17 years, as an elected Active Member and a School District appointee, representing the members of the System. His first election was effective January 1, 2006 and subsequently reelected for four years then appointed by the Kansas City Public School Board for one year followed by reappointment for two, four-year terms until his resignation in December 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure on the Board of Trustees, Horace Coleman, Jr., served with distinction as chairperson of the Board from 2008 until December 2021, member of the Audit, Investment, Legislative and Benefits, Policy and Evaluation, Business and Technology and Retirement Medical Program committees and as chairperson of the Legislative and Benefits and Audit committee of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Horace Coleman, Jr., 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 pension reform legislation providing greater financial stability; and

**WHEREAS**, through prudent oversight of trust assets, he helped guide the System through challenging market-cycles and socio-economic landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, Horace Coleman, Jr.'s service to KCPSRS was performed with unwavering dedication and commitment; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Public School Retirement System of the School District of Kansas City, Missouri, do hereby express their appreciation for the dedicated service provided by Mr. Coleman as a Trustee and Fiduciary and extend their best wishes for good health and happiness in his future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Horace Coleman, Jr. and be included in the proceedings of the 101st Annual Convention of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Kansas City Public School Retirement System



**IN APPRECIATION  
RANDY GERKE**

**WHEREAS**, Randy Gerke served in Nebraska local, university and then state government for 47 years. Serving at the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems for the last 20 years, serving the Members of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems as the Director since 2017, until his resignation in August 2023; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure Randy Gerke served with distinction directing the management of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems' Plans, assisting in drafting retirement legislation, serving on the Nebraska Investment Council; and

**WHEREAS**, Randy Gerke was committed to preserving the defined benefit structure of the Nebraska retirement plans, preserving the success of the defined contribution plans, and to supporting the dedicated work staff of the Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems and its Trustees. During his tenure, he protected the interests of the Systems and its members by supporting passage of pension reform legislation to provide greater financial stability; and

**WHEREAS**, through prudent research, planning, and a cooperative communications landscape, he helped guide the Nebraska Retirement Systems' Legislation through challenging market-cycles and socio-economic landscapes; and

**WHEREAS**, Randy Gerke's service to the State of Nebraska was performed with unwavering dedication and commitment; now therefore be it **RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Nebraska Retirement Systems, do hereby express their appreciation for the dedicated service provided by Randy as Director and Fiduciary and extend their best wishes for good health and happiness in his future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Randy Gerke and be included in the proceedings of the 101st Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Nebraska Public Employees Retirement Systems



**IN APPRECIATION  
CHRISTOPHER S. MOSS**

**WHEREAS**, Christopher S. Moss, known to all as Chris, has devoted 13 years as a member of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) Board of Trustees, and can rightfully claim the title of being the longest-serving TRS Trustee in the 21st Century. He fulfilled his fiduciary duties and consciously guided the system for the sole and exclusive benefit of members and participants. He was first appointed by Gov. Rick Perry in March 2010 and then reappointed by Gov. Greg Abbott in May 2016; and

**WHEREAS**, he provided leadership during a time when the retirement system grew from approximately 1.3 to more than 1.9 million members and annuitants and the net position of the fund increased from \$95.7 to a peak of \$200 billion; and

**WHEREAS**, Chris chaired the Audit Committee which matured to the Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee and he served as a member of the budget, benefit, investment management, risk management and strategic planning committees; he also served on the Texas Growth Fund and as the board TRS Enterprise Application Modernization (TEAM) liaison; and

**WHEREAS**, he played an active role in selecting a new executive director for TRS in 2011 and joined other trustees in commemorating TRS' 75th anniversary in 2012; and

**WHEREAS**, Chris oversaw and provided valuable insight to TRS executives as they testified and provided information during six sessions of the Texas Legislature. Historic legislation was passed during the last several sessions leading to the actuarial soundness of TRS, funding to keep TRS-Care solvent, creation of an ombuds position, comprehensive changes to Employment After Retirement (EAR), and developing an outreach plan to assist members and employers with effectively planning for retirement; and

**WHEREAS**, during Chris' long tenure, TRS' presence expanded from Austin to London and El Paso. He was a fundamental part of TRS establishing the Teacher Retirement Investment Company of Texas (TRICOT) office in 2015 based in London, England, whose primary purpose is to increase the size and number of investment opportunities for the TRS portfolio. He also was an integral part of opening in 2022 TRS' first regional office in El Paso, Texas, in an ongoing effort to engage directly with TRS members and providing services closer to where members are located; and

**WHEREAS**, he was an essential member in the due diligence performed determining that after almost 50 years at the Red River headquarters, it was time for TRS to purchase a new headquarters outside of downtown Austin. This historic action by the board of trustees in 2021 resulted in the purchase of a two-building campus in the Mueller development that will house the entire agency, estimated to save \$15 million over the next 20 years and serve TRS' growing membership for the next generations; and

**WHEREAS**, Chris' successful career and his exceptional professionalism, trust, and integrity has been a true asset to the TRS Board of Trustees; for 13 years, Mr. Moss immensely benefited the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and its members, and his contributions have earned him the respect and admiration of all who have had the pleasure of working with him; and





**IN APPRECIATION**  
**CHRISTOPHER S. MOSS** *(continued)*

**WHEREAS**, he 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; and now, therefore, be it

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

**RESOLVED**, That this Resolution be presented to Chris and that it be included in the proceedings of the 101st Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Teacher Retirement System of Texas



**IN APPRECIATION**  
**DR. PAUL E. NELSON**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Paul E. Nelson served as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana since 2017, representing active members employed as city or parish school superintendents; and

**WHEREAS**, during his service on the board, Dr. Nelson served admirably in leadership roles on the Budget & Finance, Investment and Legislative committees and served on the Executive, Membership & Entitlements and Personnel committees; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Nelson has been a commendable trustee who consistently brought great insight and institutional knowledge as a 30-year educator to board discussions; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Nelson has prioritized maintaining open communication lines with other superintendents, ensuring they are well informed about the retirement system; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Nelson's knowledge of return-to-work issues was invaluable to discussions about issues facing school districts in managing staff shortages; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Nelson always displayed a keen understanding of the value a defined benefit plan offers in the recruitment and retention of qualified teachers who educate the future Louisiana workforce; and

**WHEREAS**, during Dr. Nelson's tenure, the Board provided much needed stability to members and retirees during the COVID-19 global pandemic by ensuring the continuity of services; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Nelson's tenure on the board coincided with a period of significant achievement for TRSL and its members, evidenced by a decrease in the employer contribution rate for eight consecutive years, a 9.2 percentage point growth in the system's funded status, and a \$1.5 billion drop in the UAL; and

**WHEREAS**, for three decades, Dr. Nelson served the educational community of Louisiana in a number of leadership roles, including assistant principal, junior high principal, elementary school principal and school superintendent of Tensas and Concordia parishes; and

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

**RESOLVED**, that the National Conference on Teacher Retirement hereby expresses its appreciation to Dr. Nelson for his service to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana as a trustee and fiduciary; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Resolution be presented to Dr. Paul E. Nelson, and that it be included in the proceedings of the 101<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana



**IN APPRECIATION  
CURTIS L. ROGERS**

**WHEREAS**, Curtis L. Rogers was elected, and served, as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Public School Retirement System of the School District of Kansas City, Missouri (KCPSRS / the System) for 24 years, as an elected Active Member and elected Retired Member. His first election was effective January 1, 1998 and subsequently reelected for four, four-year terms until his resignation in December 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, during his tenure on the Board of Trustees, Curtis L. Rogers served with distinction as vice chairperson of the Board from 2017 until December 2021, member of the Investment and Policy and Evaluation committees and as chairperson of the Policy and Evaluation committee of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Curtis L. Rogers 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 pension reform legislation providing greater financial stability; and

**WHEREAS**, through prudent oversight of trust assets, he helped guide the System through challenging market-cycles and socio-economic landscape; and

**WHEREAS**, Curtis L. Rogers' service to KCPSRS was performed with unwavering dedication and commitment; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, the Board of Trustees and Staff of the Public School Retirement System of the School District of Kansas City, Missouri, do hereby express their appreciation for the dedicated service provided by Mr. Rogers as a Trustee and Fiduciary and extend their best wishes for good health and happiness in his future endeavors; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a copy of this resolution be presented to Curtis L. Rogers and be included in the proceedings of the 101<sup>st</sup> Conference of the National Council on Teacher Retirement, 2023.

Submitted by: Kansas City Public School Retirement System

