NCPERS UNIVERSITY

Trustee Essentials Training

May 16 -17, 2026
Las Vegas, NV

FINAL AGENDA

SATURDAY, MAY 16

6:30 AM–2:00 PM REGISTRATION

6:30 AM–8:00 AM BREAKFAST

8:00 AM–1:15 PM DAY 1 - GENERAL SESSION

8:15 AM–9:00 AM *Plan Governance: Roles of Trustees and Staff*
In this session, trustees will gain a comprehensive understanding of plan governance, focusing on the distinct roles and responsibilities of trustees and staff. This session will empower trustees to effectively collaborate with staff, ensuring sound governance and enhancing the overall success of their pension plans.

SPEAKER *Steven Cottle, Segal Marco*

9:00 AM–9:45 AM *Navigating Your Investment Role as a Trustee*
Becoming a trustee can be exciting and terrifying at the same time. Serving as a fiduciary is a tremendous responsibility as you are now tasked with making decisions that have a direct impact on the lives of fund beneficiaries. This session will explore fundamental concepts that can help guide you in your role as a Trustee and serve as a framework for an investment program of any size.

SPEAKER *Jennifer Mink, Investment Performance Services, LLC*

9:45 AM–10:00 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK

10:00 AM–11:00 AM *Investments 101: Fixed Income & Public Equities*
This session introduces trustees to the fundamentals of fixed income and public equities. Participants will learn about bond types, valuation methods, yield metrics, and interest rate sensitivity. The course also covers key risks, investment strategies, and how managers align portfolios with client goals. Additionally, trustees will gain a foundational understanding of stocks, market capitalization categories, active vs.

	passive strategies, and selecting benchmarks for evaluating performance.
SPEAKER	*Elijah Reese, Aon*
11:00 AM–12:00 PM	*AI for Pension Trustees: Practical Applications, Risks, and Roadmap* This session introduces artificial intelligence in a way that is practical, relevant, and grounded in fiduciary responsibility. It will explore how trustees can evaluate, understand, and responsibly use AI tools to support governance, strengthen decision-making, and enhance oversight.
SPEAKER	*Darren Dang, Orange County Employees Retirement System (OCERS)*
12:00 PM–12:15 PM	REFRESHMENT BREAK
12:15 PM–1:15 PM	*Investments 201: Alternatives* What is an alternative investment? This session will define what makes an investment alternative as well as discuss subsets of alternative investments such as hedge funds and private equity, among others. Additionally, tips and methods for navigating the alternative asset manager due diligence process will be shared.
SPEAKER	*Rhett Humphreys, NEPC, LLC*
4:00 PM–5:30 PM	UNIVERSITY NETWORKING RECEPTION

*Revised 4/15/26.

SUNDAY, MAY 17

7:00 AM–2:00 PM REGISTRATION

7:00 AM–8:00 AM BREAKFAST

8:00 AM–1:15 PM DAY 2 – GENERAL SESSION

8:00 AM–8:45 AM *The Nuts & Bolts of Fiduciary Duties*
This session will explore what it means to be a good fiduciary from the perspective of legal issues that can arise including: plan governance, privilege issues, conflicts of interest, regulatory matters, open meetings, and public records.

SPEAKER *Nicole Giambarrese, Ice Miller*

8:45 AM–9:30 AM *Back to Basics: Actuarial Valuations*
This session will cover the fundamental concepts of actuarial valuations. An overview of actuarial assumptions, different actuarial cost methods, commonly employed policies/practices that impact contribution rate development, and explanations of terms regularly used in an actuarial valuation report will be discussed.

SPEAKER *Thomas Lyle, Gabriel Roeder Smith & Company*

9:30 AM–9:45 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK

9:45 AM–10:30 AM *Ethics: A Practical Guide for Trustees*
Stepping into a trustee role comes with significant responsibility and, at times, difficult judgment calls. This session is designed for trustees and staff who want to build a strong ethical foundation. Participants will explore core fiduciary duties, conflicts of interest, transparency, and accountability, with an emphasis on how to apply these principles in everyday decision-making.

SPEAKER *Brad Ramirez, Segal*

10:30 AM–11:15 AM *The Current State of Public Pensions: A Review of the 2026 NCPERS* Public Retirement Systems (PRS) Study
Dive into the current state of public pensions with this insightful session, offering a comprehensive review of the 2026 NCPERS Public Retirement Systems (PRS) Study. Trustees will examine the study's key findings and implications, gaining valuable perspectives to inform their decision-making and strategic planning for pension fund sustainability.

*Revised 4/15/26.

SPEAKERS *Hank Kim, NCPERS*
Mathew Eckel, NCPERS

11:15 AM–11:30 AM REFRESHMENT BREAK

11:30 AM–1:00 PM *Asset Allocation Challenge*
(Interactive computer-based investment training session)
Learn how to build a successful portfolio through a hands-on workshop and interactive game.

SPEAKERS
Brendan McMahon, Northern Trust

1:00 PM–1:15 PM *What's Next? Continued Learning*
Discover the path forward for continued learning in pension fund governance with this session, which will spotlight the NCPERS Advanced Fiduciary Institute.

SPEAKERS *Peter Landers, Global Governance Advisors*
Brad Kelly, Global Governance Advisors

*Revised 4/15/26.