Welcome to the Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE) in Austin! The ACE program is NCPERS’ flagship event, where a thousand attendees gather from all over the county to learn, network, and collaborate.

This letter is an opportunity to present the NCPERS annual report. Founded in 1941, we have advocated for the past 78 years on behalf of public pensions, conducted research to advance the public’s knowledge, and educated tens of thousands of trustees and staff. Advocacy, Research, and Education are the core missions of NCPERS. It’s who we ARE!

But we refuse to rest on our past successes. We continue to innovate and evolve to better serve our members, provide more value to our constituencies, and be a leader in these challenging times. Below are updates on some of the successes we’ve had since the 2018 ACE.

MEMBERSHIP

NCPERS has never been stronger. As of this report’s going to print, we have 462 members representing more than $3 trillion in assets under management.

Member services: NCPERS members enjoy exclusive benefits, including access to NCPERS research and staff expertise. NCPERS is happy to share our expertise and present our research to our members. Please contact us to schedule presentations at your pension board meetings or regional or state conferences.

NCPERS affinity programs: For nearly 50 years, NCPERS has teamed with Gallagher Benefit Services to provide our members with products and services that help our members accomplish their missions and provide participants and their families with additional financial security and peace of mind. We are proud to endorse the following products:

- Cyber insurance
- Fiduciary insurance
- Identity theft protection
- Term life insurance
ADVOCACY

NCPERS advocates on behalf of public pensions at the federal, state, and local levels of government. A comprehensive overview of the federal issues we address can be found in our annual Legislative Issues Book, which is printed in conjunction with our annual Legislative Conference.

◮ Your eyes, ears, and voice: Whether it is in Washington, D.C., or state capitals, NCPERS vigilantly monitors and speaks out on behalf of public pensions. At the federal level we work to keep the interests of our members at the forefront of policy makers’ minds. At the state level we work in concert with our members and our state coalition of stakeholders to ensure that harmful legislation is identified and defeated.

◮ Secure Choice: In September 2011 NCPERS published the Secure Choice Pension white paper, leading the effort to bring retirement security to workers who do not have access to an employer-sponsored plan. In July 2017 we published the Secure Choice 2.0 white paper, coinciding with the launch of OregonSaves, the first state retirement savings program to enroll participants. To date, 11 Secure Choice retirement programs have been enacted, of which three are currently running, accepting participants, and taking savings contributions!

◮ Like-minded organizations: NCPERS helped create the National Institute on Retirement Security (NIRS), the National Public Pension Coalition (NPPC), and the Center for Retirement Initiatives (CRI) at Georgetown University. NCPERS continues to fund these organizations at the highest level and to serve on their boards.

◮ Media and public relations: NCPERS takes on the media and tackles the issues that our individual members can’t or others won’t.

◮ Code of conduct for service providers: The NCPERS Code of Conduct identifies 10 principles for service providers. NCPERS created this code of conduct to help fiduciaries and managers articulate strong, consistent ethical expectations for service providers across the board.
RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS
NCPERS produces timely and relevant research and publications. Samples of representative research include the annual NCPERS Public Retirement Systems Study, original research studies (in-depth analyses on a variety of timely topics related to public pension plans), and a Research Series (comprising shorter issue briefs on topical issues related to public pension plans). Regular NCPERS publications are the online Weekly Newsclips series; Washington Update, a weekly newsletter; The Monitor, a monthly legislative newsletter; and PERSist, a quarterly educational journal.

EDUCATION
NCPERS is recognized as the leading provider of education in the public pension industry and is an accredited sponsor of continuing education in several states. We host eight major in-person educational conferences and at least 10 webinars each year. In 2018, NCPERS educated nearly 2,500 trustees, plan staff, and other fiduciaries and stakeholders.

Our in-person educational programs include the following:

- Annual Legislative Conference
- NCPERS University, which houses:
  - Trustee Educational Seminar (TEDS)
  - NCPERS Accredited Fiduciary (NAF) Program
  - Program for Advanced Trustees Studies (PATS)
- Annual Conference and Exhibition (ACE)
- Chief Officers Summit
- Public Pension Funding Forum
- Public Safety Conference

In conclusion, we are strong and prepared to face the challenges ahead. NCPERS excels at our core missions of advocating on behalf of public pensions at the federal, state, and local levels; expanding the knowledge base through our research; and educating thousands of plan fiduciaries. Have a great ACE!

Daniel Fortuna
NCPERS President