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PERSpectives FOR ACTIVES

Public Employee Retirement System of Idaho

Third Quarter 2022

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DIRECTOR DRUM COMPLETES HIS TERM AS BOARD PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATORS

This past August, at the 68th National Association of State Retirement Administrators (NASRA) conference, Director Drum completed his term as President. His expertise and leadership helped strengthen relationships with pension system leaders and led the conversation toward creating a sustainable future for public pension systems.

Founded in 1955, NASRA is one of the industries leading research centers for public pension systems in the nation. The non-profit association includes members that are directors of the nation's state, territorial, and largest statewide public retirement systems.

During the "Changing Tides – Building the Future" conference, leaders in the fields of retirement plan investment and administration covered a variety of subjects, including investment management, world events applicable to the pension industry, the economy, human resources, trends, and much more.

The conference returned to in-person attendance after being up-ended by the pandemic in early 2020. With Director Drum's vast experience and understanding the importance of meeting in-person, the conference was well attended by leadership from public retirement systems across the nation.



Pension system leaders and NASRA staff mentioned Director Drum's overall influence and impact on them and the association.

"President Drum exemplifies the best qualities of leadership and NASRA was a direct beneficiary of his skill and dedication. He also is a great friend and supporter to all in the public pension community!" said Ms. Dana Bilyeu, NASRA Executive Director.

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“Don was one of the first people I met through NASRA after becoming the Executive Director of the Utah Retirement Systems and has been a fantastic mentor and friend ever since. Don’s experience, wisdom, poise, and sense of humor have not only benefitted me, but the entire public pension industry as he has shared his talents and perspective with others across the country. As President of NASRA (and during his time as vice president) all of Don’s qualities were on display as he helped all of us through challenging times the past few years. Idaho is truly fortunate to have Don leading PERSI.” said Mr. Dan Andersen, Executive Director of Utah Retirement Systems.

“As I look back over my nearly 30 years of serving our incredible public servants, Don has truly been an inspiration. True leadership is by example. Don is no excuses. He’s about getting off your backside and just getting it done. There is no one I respect more than Don Drum.” said Mr. Robert L. Wilson, Executive Director of Missouri LAGERS.

Director Drum will continue to serve and contribute on NASRA’s executive committee as a Past President.

PERSI TRAINING SPECIALIST FEATURED IN...

The Plan Sponsor Council of America recently invited PERSI Training Specialist, Maria Sablan-Quitugua, to contribute an article about the importance of connecting with employees and employers.

Her article, “Relationships Matter!”, shares her unique perspective as a public service employee educating Idaho’s public workers about PERSI retirement benefits and the role professional relationships play in successfully reaching members.

Ms. Sablan-Quitugua explains how building rela-

tionships, builds partnerships:

“It is important to build relationships with your points of contact. You have probably heard this a lot in business and workplaces; they say, “Build camaraderie because it helps cultivate a good working environment.” Camaraderie comes from the French language, and it is the origin of English’s “comrade,” meaning friend or associate. In other words, be a friend and be personable. Communicate that you understand the complexities of scheduling and you are willing and patient enough to work it through. Build trust and be flexible.

Provide employee education and employer support. Offer workshops that enable employers to take a proactive, data driven role in their employee education; it requires a lot of communication and correspondence.

“I want our employee members to be “retirement literate” and to help them realize the value of their benefits.’

Collect data and resources prior to reaching out so you can be ready to plan for workshops that are customizable to fit their needs. Gathering information ahead of time shows your contacts that they are important because you invested your time in them. It shows that you are serious, that they are important, and you mean business.

I gather data like employee count, length of service, type of agency/employer etc. I want employers to know that I am here to help their employees, but I am also here to help them recruit and retain their employees.”

Her article continues with tips on expanding and cultivating “camaraderie” and trust. To read the article in full, click the below link:

Relationships Matter!

[Connection and understanding is the first step in successfully educating employees about retirement.](#)



A HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY TO IMPROVE YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE

*Presented by Empower Retirement,
recordkeeper of the PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan*

Throughout time, there have been great moments that forever changed what people believed was possible. In October 2022, history will be made again as **NATIONAL RETIREMENT SECURITY MONTH** looks back at milestone achievements to show you how your valuable resources can help get you ready to make your mark on your financial future.

THIS IS YOUR CHANCE TO MAKE HISTORY. When you take advantage of some of the valuable features available to you, you can get the help you need to reach the financial future you imagine.

Are you ready to make your mark?

MEET WITH A FINANCIAL PROFESSIONAL – Review your strategy to help ensure you're on track to reach your goals and explore the important

elements of achieving financial wellness now and in the future.

EXPLORE THE ENHANCED PERSI Choice 401(k) Plan website – View your net worth based on your financial assets and liabilities and receive relevant and personalized web messages based on your situation.

LINK FINANCIAL ACCOUNTS – View resources for your budgeting and cash flow strategy, and engage with debt paydown and emergency fund resources.

This is your moment. During National Retirement Security Month, you'll see how the stars can align for your tomorrow. You'll discover that the sky's the limit when it comes to your goals, and you'll have the chance to experience the science behind financial wellness success.

IT'S TIME TO MAKE HISTORY FOR YOUR FINANCIAL FUTURE!



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MAKE TIME FOR A PERSI WORKSHOP

PERSI trainers have made preparing for retirement even easier with virtual and in-person workshops. Members can register for live online or in-person workshops to learn how to reach their retirement goals.

Whether it is a virtual or in-person workshop, members will have the opportunity to ask questions during the workshop. There will also be additional time to ask further questions at the end of each workshop.

Our trainers have custom-designed workshops for members in different stages of their careers to learn how to better prepare for retirement and about their PERSI retirement benefits.

The following workshop descriptions will help you decide which workshop is right for you:

READY workshops are for anyone just starting a career with a PERSI employer. They provide

a general overview of what PERSI is and the benefits it provides for PERSI members.

SET workshops are for those in mid-career with a PERSI employer. SET workshops focus on how vesting changes PERSI benefits and things to consider in planning for retirement.

GO! workshops are designed for late-career PERSI members who may be approaching or contemplating retirement.

NOTE: To protect personal information, members can obtain benefit estimates through the myPERSI portal or by calling the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

To register for a workshop, go to the PERSI workshop registration page and click "Contact Us" to schedule a workshop. If you have a question, please call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or at 208-334-3365.

**CHECK HERE FOR A
WORKSHOP**

WORKSHOPS

PROTECT YOURSELF

REGISTER & CLAIM YOUR myPERSI ACCOUNT

PERSI strongly urges all members to register and claim their myPERSI account.

By doing this, you can greatly reduce the risk to your account, and stop potential fraudsters in their tracks!

Keep your account, and your personal information out of the hands of bad actors.

Learn how to register and claim your account here: <https://www.persi.idaho.gov/docs/brochures/myPERSI-Registration.pdf>

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365 from the Treasure Valley area.



UPCOMING HOLIDAYS

PERSI will be closed in observance of the following holidays:

- Monday, October 10 – Columbus Day
- Friday, November 11 – Veterans Day
- Thursday, November 24 – Thanksgiving Day
- Monday, December 26 – Christmas Day
- Monday, January 2 – New Year's Day

If you have questions, call the PERSI Answer Center at 1-800-451-8228 or 208-334-3365.

RETIREMENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jeff Cilek, **Chairman**

Joy Fisher, **Trustee**

Celia R. Gould, **Trustee**

Park Price, **Trustee**

Darin DeAngeli, **Trustee**

Executive Director • Donald Drum

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www.persi.idaho.gov

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