

TEXPERS 2019

SUMMER EDUCATIONAL FORUM



**SECURE RETIREMENT:
REACH FOR THE STARS**



AUGUST 18-20, 2019 // FRISCO, TEXAS

@ OMNI HOTEL AT THE STAR, HEADQUARTERS OF THE DALLAS COWBOYS



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REACH FOR THE STARS DURING TEXPERS' SUMMER EDUCATIONAL FORUM IN FRISCO

BY PAUL R. BROWN, TEXPERS PRESIDENT

Welcome, in advance, to TEXPERS' 2019 Summer Educational Forum Aug. 18-20 in Frisco, Texas. Members of TEXPERS will come from all over the State of Texas and the U.S., to learn, network, and discuss issues pertinent to their pension systems.

This year, we are gathering at the Omni Hotel at The Star, the world headquarters of the Dallas Cowboys. You'll notice in photos of the hotel or see for yourself at

the event that the football team's star logo is emblazoned on the team's practice arena, Ford Center at The Star. Like the team it represents, that logo, a single star, packs a punch. It is representative of the Lone Star State, and so much more.

Stars are often used to symbolize heavenly bodies and good luck. In dreams, a shooting star is a sign of self-fulfillment and advancement in life. Stars can signify a significant change or turning point in a person's life.

The star is a perfect motivational symbol for administrators, trustees and investment professionals of public pension systems. At TEXPERS, we see the star as a symbol of the fulfillment of our mission: assuring the promised benefits of public employees. It is the goal we strive to attain. It is why the star is featured in our logo and

is referenced in this year's forum theme - Secure Retirement: Reach for the Stars.

We want to help you reach your goals. TEXPERS focuses on helping its members become more valuable to their funds and stakeholders. Each year, through programs such as the Summer Educational Forum, TEXPERS members become more successful professionally by contributing peer-based support, participating in educational programs, taking leadership roles within and outside of the association, and by promoting the highest standards of professional competence and ethics.

Having completed a well-attended Annual Conference in Austin in April, complete with a legislative tone, the Summer Educational Forum in August will be a relaxing, informative event in North Texas. During the Annual Conference, we celebrated the 30th anniversary of TEXPERS. The association has spent three decades providing high-quality training for our members, expanding awareness of public pension issues, and advocating for the promised benefits of public employees. We continue to achieve our educational, advocacy, and membership-building goals.

The membership of TEXPERS continues to grow. More affiliates from outside the state have increased interest in TEXPERS because of the service and education the organization provides. After every conference, people contact our staff and board about joining the organization and attending our next event.

TEXPERS is an advocate for all public employees and public employee pension

systems in Texas. At the state level, we work with our members, coalitions, and committees to identify legislation that directly impacts public employee pension systems. An overview of Texas' recent legislative session will be available to the members at this summer forum.

The staff and our contractors at TEXPERS work on your behalf to identify issues that continue to impact the work you do to provide the best benefits possible. TEXPERS will continue to provide research and publications related to public pension plans in Texas. Our staff continues to provide online news and social media posts that are of interest to our members.

Our peers recognize TEXPERS as the leading provider of education and training in Texas. TEXPERS provides the mandatory training and continuing education that is required by the State Pension Review Board. We continue to provide basic trustee training and advanced trustee training, both of which are set for Aug. 17, the day before the summer forum. You can register for the forum along with the training or just for training online at www.texpers.org. TEXPERS also is currently in the process of planning a special education event in conjunction with our state affiliates.

Thank you for being a member of TEXPERS. Continue reaching for the stars.





FORUM OFFERS EDUCATION, TRAINING AND NETWORKING TO PENSION STAKEHOLDERS

BY BARBARA ZLATNIK,
TEXPERS ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR FOR
PROGRAMS & TRAINING

TEXPERS' conferences bring Texas' key pension stakeholders together for education, training and networking. The next time they will be together is May 2020 for the TEXPERS Annual Conference, so those with a stake in the success of the state's retirement systems should not miss the association's Summer Educational Forum this August.

The forum starts off with pre-conference training on Saturday, Aug. 17. TEXPERS offers Basic Trustee Training and Advanced Trustee Training.

Basic Trustee Training is for new trustees and provides seven hours of training over seven content areas. The class will be conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Omni Frisco. The registration fee is \$225 for TEXPERS member retirement systems and employee group members and is \$325 for non-member retirement systems.

Advanced Trustee Training is for more seasoned trustees that have taken Basic Trustee Training or another training that covers the same content. Advanced Trustee Training is different every time it is held and will take a deep dive into various topics. The Aug. 17 class has several topics set so far.

A Pension Trustee's Guide to the Actuarial Valuation will be taught by Leslie Thompson, Gabriel Roeder Smith and Pam Feely of the Fire and Police Pension Association of Colorado. This "back-to-basics" session is for trustees who'd like a refresher on the actuarial valuation. From the valuation, assumptions, costs and liabilities through to the policy and decision making, the entire valuation process is reviewed.

This seminar is intended to provide trustees insights and tools to understand the move forward with their responsibilities for the funding of their retirement plan.

Also, on the agenda is a deep dive into Real Estate investing presented by instructors from the CFAs of Texas.

Members will pay \$150 for Advanced Trustee Training; nonmembers pay \$250. Both classes provide credit towards the PRB's minimum education and training requirements.

The TEXPERS Summer Educational Forum officially kicks off Sunday, Aug. 18. There is a pre-conference workshop that morning (subject to be determined), registration opens in the afternoon, and an exciting evening party is planned. Attendees will be transported to Strikz for an evening of food, beverages, bowling, billiards, arcade games and even Laser Tag.

The educational program begins Monday morning, Aug. 19. Monday's general sessions feature an update from the Pension Review Board from its Executive Director Anumeha Kumar and the new board chairperson, Stephanie Liebe. Also on the agenda, "Investment Performance – What's the secret sauce for results?" will highlight the thoughts and experiences from staff at some of TEXPERS' best performing funds. The keynote luncheon speaker, Ryan "Birdman" Parrott

discusses The Spark and what motivates to be elite.

In the afternoon, attendees will have their choice of various breakout sessions on investment and non-investment topics. Eric Atwater, Aon, leads a discussion of "What they don't tell you about DROP." There will also be a session on "Medicare Must Knows." Attendees will learn things about Medicare that could threaten their retirement.

Tuesday, Aug. 20, will highlight non-investment topics, including "Defending Public Pensions" with Hank Kim, NCPERS Executive Director. On Tuesday, Round Table Discussions offer a free-flowing discussion of "what keeps you up at night" on a variety of different topics, from which retirement system attendees can choose which to attend.

This is just a peek at what's on the program for the Forum. There's no more affordable or convenient way to access education, training, subject matter experts, and retirement system colleagues than the TEXPERS summer forum. Visit www.texpers.org to register.

VENUE INFORMATION

TEXPERS' 2019 Summer Educational Forum will be held at the Omni Hotel, 11 Cowboys Way in Frisco, which is roughly a 35 minute drive from downtown Dallas.

TEXPERS members who reserve a room at the Omni Frisco Hotel by July 26 gain access to a special rate during their stay. After registering for the forum online at www.texpers.org, a confirmation email will include a link that will allow you to make your reservation at the Omni Frisco Hotel. Discounted parking also is available at the hotel. Upon arrival, tell hotel staff you are with the TEXPERS Summer

Educational Forum to get the best available parking rate. On-site valet parking is available.

Pre-forum trustee training and forum programming take place on the hotel's second-level. Signs will be posted.

The 16-story hotel is the cornerstone of The Star, the headquarters of the Dallas Cowboys. The Star also features the 12,000-seat Ford Center stadium plus a shopping, dining and entertainment district.

The venue is located about 25 minutes away from either Dallas Fort Worth International Airport and Dallas Love Field Airport.



Register online at www.texpers.org.





TEXPERS SUMMER EDUCATIONAL FORUM

August 18 – 20- 2019
Omni Hotel, Frisco, Texas

Secure Retirement: Reach for the Stars

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17, 2019

8:00 am – 4:00 pm **Basic Trustee Training**

9:00 am – 2:30 p.m. **Advanced Trustee Training**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, 2019

7:30 am – 2:00 p.m. **Golf Tournament Luncheon**
Plantation Golf Club, 4701 Plantation Lane, Frisco TX

10:00 - Noon. **Pre-Conference Workshop**

3:00 - 5:30 p.m. **CONFERENCE REGISTRATION**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m. **Member's Dinner Party - *Courtesy of All Associate Members***
Strikz!, 8789 Lebanon Rd., Frisco, TX

MONDAY, AUGUST 19, 2019

7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. **REGISTRATION**

7:00-8:15 a.m. **BUFFET BREAKFAST**

8:15 a.m. **OPENING CEREMONY**

8:35 – 9:05 am Gold Keynote Sponsor
Topic TBD
Greg Reid, Salient Partners

9:10 –9:35 am Gold Sponsor
Topic TBD
Mike Reynal, Victory Capital Management

9:40 – 10:20 am PRB Update
Anumeha Kumar, Executive Director
Stephanie Leibe, Chairman

10:20 – 10:45 am **Break – Return promptly for prize drawing**

10:45 – 11:10 am Gold Sponsor
Topic TBD

This is a preliminary schedule. It is subject to change.
Please visit www.texpers.org for updated details.



TEXPERS SUMMER EDUCATIONAL FORUM

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Omni Hotel, Frisco, Texas

Secure Retirement: Reach for the Stars

Michael Chesser, Apartment Income Investors, Inc.

11:15 – 11:55 am

Investment Performance – What's the secret sauce for results?

Moderator: James Perry, Maples Financial Services
Cheryl Alston, Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas

Lois Emerson, CPS Energy Pension Plan

12:00-1:30 p.m.

LUNCH and Keynote Speaker

Ryan "Birdman" Parrott

Sons of the Flag, Found & President

Concurrent Breakout Sessions

1:45 – 2:40 pm

Breakout A – What they don't tell you about DROP

Moderator: Eric Atwater, Aon

Kolby Beckham, Longview Fire

Tyler Grossman, El Paso Fire and Police Pension Fund

Breakout B – CIO Outsourcing Basics and Multi-Asset Investing

Moderator: Dwight Burns, DART Retirement Plan & Trust

Speaker: Jim Link, PFM Asset Management

Add'l panelists TBD

2:50 – 3:40 pm

Breakout A – Medicare Must – Knows to Protect your Retirement – IRMMA and more
Speaker TBD, Prudential

Breakout B – Liquid Alternatives

Moderator: Robert Longfield, Gavion LLC

Speaker TBD, Coquest Managed Assets

Connor Browne, Thornburg Investment Management

Sean Herron, Glenmede Investment Management

3:50 – 4:40 pm

Breakout A – Core Plus Real Estate

Moderator: Will Harrell, Robert Harrell Inc.

Speaker, TBD, Bentall Kennedy

Brooks Monroe, Invesco

Add'l panelist TBD

Breakout B – Diversifying through Uncorrelated Asset Classes

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Secure Retirement: Reach for the Stars

Moderator: Art Alfaro, City of Austin Employees' Retirement System
Joseph Morgart, Amundi Pioneer Investments
Add'l panelists TBD

Reception

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20, 2019

7:30 a.m.

REGISTRATION

7:30-8:30 a.m.

BUFFET BREAKFAST

8:45 – 10:00 am

Roundtables

ED/CIOs

Moderator: Tyler Grossman, El Paso Fire and Police Pension Fund

Communications

Moderator: Allen Jones, TEXPERS

Benefits

Moderator: TBD

Administration (small funds)

Moderator: Kolby Beckham, Longview Fire

Disability

Moderator: David Etheridge, Employees' Retirement Fund of the City of Dallas

10:15 to 11:00 am

Defending Public Pensions

Hank Kim, NCPERS

Joe Gimenez, G3 Communications

System member panelists

11:00 – 11:30 am

TBD

11:30 am – 1:00 pm

LUNCH

This is a preliminary schedule. It is subject to change.
Please visit www.texpers.org for updated details.



THINGS TO DO WHILE VISITING SPORTS CITY, U.S.A.

BY JEFF CHENEY, CITY OF FRISCO MAYOR

Editor's Note: There are plenty of opportunities to check out the City of Frisco while in town for TEXPERS' Summer Educational Forum. You are encouraged to grab a few peers and explore the city on an evening excursion. Or, consider extending your stay. TEXPERS invited Frisco's mayor, Jeff Cheney, to explain why Money magazine (2018) named his city the No. 1 Best Place to Live in America.

From sports to shopping – from arts and culture to destination dining -- there are so many fun, hip places to experience while you're here for TEXPERS' 2019 Summer Educational Forum.

In fact, the new National Soccer Hall of Fame (pictured above) is the ultimate interactive experience versus a typical museum. Facial recognition technology

makes this 'Hall of Fame' a first of its kind. Being built into the southern end of Toyota Stadium also gives it unique character – another first for stadiums, nationwide. The National Soccer Hall of Fame fuses sports and history, past and present – while Major League Soccer's FC Dallas plays on the home pitch below.

FC Dallas is one of the several 'pro' teams which practice or play in state-of-the-art venues and inspired us to stake claim to the moniker, Sports City, U.S.A.

The Dallas Cowboys train at Ford Center at The Star. The state-of-the-art indoor stadium can convert into a concert venue or special event setting. It's surrounded by an entertainment district lined with patio and destination dining, specialty shops, and even some history stops.

The Ring of Honor Walk, a nod to legendary players, leads to Cowboys Plaza, where just about any day or night you'll find 'kids of all ages' channeling their inner Staubach, Aikman or Prescott. Ford Center is also home field for the newest members of our sports roster, the Dallas Rattlers, a Major League Lacrosse team.

Don't stop there, catch a baseball game at the Dr Pepper Ballpark, home of the Frisco RoughRiders, a Texas Rangers' AA affiliate. A short walk away, discover Comerica Center, where you can see NHL's Dallas Stars train. Comerica Center is also home court for the Texas Legends, G-League for the Dallas Mavericks.

If shopping is more your sport, check out more than nine million square feet of retail and restaurants anchored by IKEA, Centre at Preston Ridge and Stonebriar Centre.

Making its U.S. debut, KidZania opens its doors at Stonebriar Centre in fall 2019. KidZania is an interactive city where kids get to 'try out' what they want to be when they grow up. Children choose from more than 100 role-playing, career adventures.

Frisco's public art collection includes more than 150 pieces citywide. For more artful sights, head to Hall Park, home of the largest outdoor sculpture collection in Texas. For boutique shopping and dining, head downtown to 'The Rail District' where you'll find food trucks, live music, plus unique shops and restaurants.

But art, shopping and sports aren't the only games in town. Check out the National Videogame Museum (pictured below), featuring an interactive collection and an 1980s arcade. Science and history buffs will enjoy Sci-Tech Discovery Center, Frisco Heritage Museum and the Museum of the American Railroad, which also presents TrainTopia – a model train exhibit.

I could go on – and on about what makes Frisco special, how we became a destination for tournaments and events, including two collegiate marquee games -- NCAA Div. 1 Football Championship and the Frisco Bowl. I invite you to experience our city first-hand and discover why Frisco is not only the #1 Best Place to Live in America, but also the best place to meet, play and visit.



NETWORKING PRO TIPS

BY ALLEN JONES, TEXPERS COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER

During TEXPERS' Summer Educational Forum, retirement system trustees, administrators and financial professionals have plenty of opportunity to network with each other. In the lobby between program sessions, at the breakfast table, on the golf course, and during a game of bowling at the Member's Dinner Party, you have several chances to chat with pension industry peers.

TEXPERS reached out to Michael Simmons, the host and leader of Frisco Business Connection, a monthly mixer for area professionals, to obtain some networking tips to help you take full advantage of your time at the forum. For Simmons, networking is about building relationships, not selling something.

"Networking, for me, is making connections with others and understanding what they offer and who they are looking to be connected with to help build their business. [Renown author, salesman, and motivational speaker] Zig Ziglar often said, 'You will get all you want in life if you help enough other people get what they want.'"

Simmons runs a financial services practice through New York Life. Networking allows him to form a list of professionals he can refer to his clients. And when those professionals help his

clients, he looks like a hero to his clients. He offers the following tips to help you make the most of the networking opportunities at TEXPERS' Summer Educational Forum:

- **Ask questions and listen.** For most people, networking doesn't come easy. When you meet someone, ask what they do and where they are from. People love to talk about themselves, so let them. While they are sharing their story, at some point, there will be something you connect with.
- **Don't monopolize time.** Try not to spend more than 20 minutes with any individual. You want to meet others. Politely end conversations, ask for their card, and express interest in continuing the conversation later. After the event, send each person you met an email telling them you enjoyed meeting them and suggest an opportunity to meet again.
- **Avoid the familiar.** It is easy to gravitate to those that you work with daily. You can always talk to your co-workers. So, avoid hanging out with those that you know and seek out people you don't know.

Refer to the forum's preliminary schedule printed in this magazine to find out some of the best opportunities to network.

"Remember, networking is the fine art of connecting to others that you might be able to help someday and that might be able to help you someday," Simmons says.

THESE STARS HELP MAKE THE SUMMER EDUCATIONAL FORUM POSSIBLE

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TODAY!**

Aug. 18-20, 2019

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www.texpers.org