

News Release



**COLORADO
PERA®**

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For Immediate Release: April 2, 2004

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Colorado PERA Executive Director Named Chair of Council of Institutional Investors Board

DENVER—On March 25, Meredith Williams, Colorado PERA's executive director, was elected chair of the Council of Institutional Investors, an association of more than 140 public, corporate, and union pension funds with assets in excess of \$3 trillion.

The Council, created by pension fund leaders in 1985, focuses on issues that involve shareholder rights and is known as a leader and innovator in the corporate governance arena. Issues in which the Council has been involved include proxy voting reform, the establishment of best practices for director/shareholder communication, mutual fund disclosure of portfolio holdings and fund expenses, stock option expensing, offshore reincorporation, and other topics related to good corporate management.

Council members and staff meet with federal elected officials and their staffs, leaders in the business world, and the corporate governance community to promote shareholder rights. The Council also provides testimony at Congressional hearings, publishes articles on corporate governance topics, and often speaks at professional conferences as the leading authority on corporate governance issues.

Williams' election to a leadership role in Council benefits Colorado PERA members because they will have representation in an organization that promotes practices that strengthen pension fund investments.

"These are exciting times for those devoted to increasing shareholder value through good corporate governance. I am honored to work with Council members and staff as we seek to effectively convey our message to Congress, regulators, the market, and corporate leaders," said Williams.

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Williams joined PERA as the executive director in March 2000. He started his professional career as a junior accountant with the Kansas Legislative Division of Post Audit, the audit arm of the Kansas government. He served as Kansas' Legislative Post Auditor from 1983 until his 1991 appointment as executive secretary of the Kansas Public Employees Retirement System.

Williams is a graduate of the University of Kansas with a degree in business administration and economics. He received his law degree in 1975 from Washburn University School of Law, Topeka.

Colorado PERA provides retirement and other benefits to the employees of over 390 government entities in the state of Colorado. PERA is the 25th largest public pension fund in the nation with over \$29 billion in assets.

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