Thursday February 19

8:00 – 8:30  REGISTRATION AND CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:45 – 9:00  WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS
James Guthrie, Peabody College, Vanderbilt
Robert Costrell, University of Arkansas
Michael Podgursky, University of Missouri – Columbia

9:00 – 9:45  SESSION I. OVERVIEW
Paper:  An Introduction to Teacher Retirement Benefits
Janet Hansen, Committee for Economic Development

Discussant:  Jay Greene, University of Arkansas

9:45 – 10:00  COFFEE BREAK

10:00 – 11:30  SESSION II. FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY OF RETIREE BENEFIT SYSTEMS
Papers:  Funding of Teacher Retirement Systems: Are They Viable?
Laurence J. Kotlikoff, Boston University

Retiree Health Plans for Public School Teachers after GASB 43 and 45
Robert Clark, North Carolina State University

Discussants:  Eric Hanushek, Hoover Institution
James Lamenzo, Massachusetts Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission

11:30 – 12:00  BOXED LUNCH

12:00 – 1:30  SESSION III. VARIATION IN TEACHER RETIREMENT BENEFITS
Papers:  Distribution of Benefits in Teacher Retirement Systems and Their Implications for Mobility
Robert Costrell, University of Arkansas
Michael Podgursky, University of Missouri – Columbia

Determinants of the Generosity of Pension Plans for Public School Teachers, 1982 to 2006
Robert Clark and Lee Craig, North Carolina State University

Discussants:  Mark Schneider, American Institutes for Research
Dominic Brewer, University of Southern California
1:30 – 1:45  COFFEE BREAK

1:45 – 3:15  SESSION IV. LABOR MARKET EFFECTS

Papers:  
Labor Market Effects of Pensions and Implications for Teachers  
Leora Friedberg and Sarah Turner, University of Virginia  

Teacher Pensions and Retirement in Pennsylvania  
Robert Strauss, Carnegie-Mellon University  

Discussants:  
Jacob Vigdor, Duke University  
Joseph Quinn, Boston College  

3:15 – 3:30  COFFEE BREAK

3:30 – 5:00  SESSION V. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND GOVERNANCE

Papers:  
Legal Limitations on Public Pension Plan Reform  
Amy Monahan, University of Missouri – Columbia  

The Politics of Teacher Retirement Plans  
Frederick Hess and Juliet Squire, American Enterprise Institute  

Discussants:  
Jon Forman, University of Oklahoma  
Jane Hannaway, Urban Institute  

5:00 – 6:30  EVENING RECEPTION

Friday February 20

8:00 – 8:15  CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

8:30 – 10:00.  SESSION VI. STATE STUDIES

Papers:  
Teacher Pensions Incentives, Retirement Behavior, and Potential for Reform in Arkansas  
Robert Costrell and Joshua McGee, University of Arkansas  

Teacher Pension Incentives and Labor Market Behavior; Evidence from Missouri Administrative Teacher Data  
Michael Podgursky, Shawn Ni, and Mark Ehlert, University of Missouri – Columbia  

The Link Between Pensions and Retirement Timing; Lessons from California Teachers  
Kristine Brown, University of Illinois – Champaign-Urbana  

Discussant:  
Martin West, Brown University  
Lori Taylor, Texas A&M  
Dale Ballou, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University  

10:00 – 10:15  COFFEE BREAK
SESSION VII. TEACHER PREFERENCES

10:15 – 11:45

Papers:

*How well do teachers understand their pensions and what do they think about alternative pension structures?*
Michael DeArmond and Dan Goldhaber, University of Washington

*Teacher (and Potential Teacher) Attitudes Toward Retirement Benefits*
James Guthrie and Elizabeth Smith, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University

*Early Career Teachers’ Perceptions of Traditional Versus Innovative Benefits Packages*
Doannie Tran and Elsie Huang, Teach Plus

Discussant: F. Howard Nelson, American Federation of Teachers, AFL-CIO
Bryan Hassel, Public Impact

11:45 – 12:15  BOXED LUNCH

12:15 – 1:45  SESSION VIII. POLICY OPTIONS AND ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF POLICY OPTIONS

Chair: Matthew Springer, Peabody College of Vanderbilt University

Eric Hanushek, Hoover Institution
Andy Rotherham, Education Sector
David Richardson, TIAA-CREF Institute
Beth Almeida, National Institute on Retirement Security

FLOOR DISCUSSION

CONFERENCE PAPERS HAVE BEEN FUNDED THROUGH GENEROUS GIFTS OF AN ANONYMOUS FOUNDATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION REFORM AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARKANSAS.