

Karen Carraher is executive director of the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System (OPERS) and has served in that capacity since 2010. With assets exceeding $101 billion, OPERS is the 12th largest public pension fund in the United States. OPERS provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits as well as health care coverage for public employees throughout the state and serves more than one million members. OPERS has proudly served its members for more than 83 years.

Prior to serving as the executive director for OPERS, Karen served as its director of finance since 2002. In that role, she managed the financial and actuarial and general business operations of the System.

Prior to joining OPERS, Karen worked in the private sector serving as the Chief Financial Officer for organizations including serving as the Executive Director of Business Services for the Ohio Education Association and the Controller for both Mount Carmel Health and Riverside Methodist Hospitals. Karen began her career as an audit manager with the accounting firm of Ernst & Young.

Karen created the Public Pension Financial Forum organization, an organization designed to facilitate education, information sharing and networking among the financial leadership of public pension plans throughout the US. That organization has grown to include approximately 100 public pension plans with a membership base of over 275 members. Karen served in the roles of president and treasurer of the Public Pension Financial Forum and currently serves as a board member for that organization.

Karen earned her Bachelor of Science degree in business administration from The Ohio State University and her master's degree in business from Capital University. She is a certified public accountant.

OPERS mission is to provide retirement security to its members. The System plays a critical role in supporting Ohio's economy with nearly 90 percent of OPERS retirees living in Ohio. In addition to pension benefits, OPERS provides health care coverage through the administration of a $13 billion health care fund.