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Olivia Mitchell Named 2016 EBRI Lillywhite Award Winner

WASHINGTON, DC—Olivia Mitchell, executive director of the Pension Research Council at the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, has been named the winner of the 2016 EBRI Lillywhite Award, which recognizes outstanding lifetime contributions to Americans' economic security.



Olivia Mitchell

Mitchell, who joined Wharton in 1993, also serves as the IFEBP Professor and Professor of Insurance/Risk Management and Business Economics/Policy, in addition to Director of the Boettner Center on Pensions and Retirement Research at the school.

“Olivia Mitchell is one of the giants in the retirement and economic security world, she has published a tremendous amount of valuable research, and she has helped shaped policies that affect the economic security of all Americans,” said EBRI President and CEO Harry Conaway, in announcing the award.

The prize is named for Ray Lillywhite, a pioneer in the pension field who for decades guided state employee pension plans. Lillywhite helped found numerous professional organizations and educational programs. It celebrates contributions by persons who have had distinguished careers in the retirement and investment management fields and whose outstanding service enhances Americans' economic security.

Mitchell's professional interests focus on public and private pensions, insurance and risk management, financial literacy, and public finance. Her research explores how systematic longevity risk and financial crises can shape household portfolios and work patterns over the life cycle; the economics and finance of defined contribution pensions; financial literacy and wealth accumulation; and claiming behavior for Social Security benefits. Her research has been appeared in leading academic journals and major media outlets, and she has published over 220 books and articles.

Previously, Mitchell chaired Wharton's Department of Insurance and Risk Management, and she also taught for 16 years at Cornell University. She speaks Spanish and Portuguese, having lived and worked in Latin America, Europe, and Australasia. She received the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the B.A. in Economics from Harvard University. She is currently a Senior Editor of the *Journal of Pension Economics and Finance*.

Concurrently with her role as head of the Pension Research Council, Mitchell also serves as a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research; Independent Director on the Wells Fargo Fund Boards; Co-Investigator for the Health and Retirement Study at the University of Michigan; Member of the Executive Board for the Michigan Retirement Research Center; and Senior Scholar at the Singapore Management University. Her full CV is [online here](#).

More information about the Lillywhite Award and a list of previous winners is online at www.ebri.org/programs/lillywhite/

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