



OKLAHOMA TEACHERS RETIREMENT SYSTEM

For immediate release: Aug. 24, 2011

Teachers Retirement System in Top Quarter Of Best Performing Pension Funds in U.S. Poll shows strong public confidence in OTRS

Oklahoma City -- In a strong performance placing it in the top 25 percent of pension funds in the U.S., the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System (OTRS) had a 23.5 percent one-year (FY 2011) return on investments. Data released today in a Pension Commission report also shows OTRS outperformed all other Oklahoma public retirement funds in both one-year and long-term returns.

In addition, OTRS' seven-year (FY 05-11) return of 7.1 percent keeps it in the 11th percentile nationally.

"The strong performance of the fund is particularly gratifying in light of a very volatile market," said OTRS executive director Dr. James Wilbanks. "The Board of Trustees and staff of the teachers retirement system have worked diligently to enact a strategy of investment diversity, and the figures bear out we are having success as a result."

The details of the performance clearly demonstrate the value generated by the asset allocation of OTRS. Over the seven-year period, OTRS returns in domestic equity ranked at the 58th percentile, international equity ranked at the 74th percentile and fixed income ranked at the 17th percentile. However, when combined and compared against comparable total fund returns, OTRS performance ranked in the 11th percentile because of a larger-than-average commitment to higher-returning asset categories.

A recent statewide survey points to strengthening confidence in OTRS. A SoonerPoll conducted earlier this month found that over half (56 percent) of respondents had a favorable opinion of the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System, while only 23 percent had an unfavorable view. Notably, the 56 percent approval rating for OTRS is higher than the 49 percent approval rating for all Oklahoma public pensions.

Wilbanks cautioned that the strong performance of OTRS, coupled with the agency's administrative efficiencies and other cost-cutting measures, can only have a limited impact on the system's significant unfunded liability. He added, however, that legislation passed recently by Oklahoma lawmakers will reap substantial results and relieve Oklahomans of more than \$2.9 billion of debt.

The OTRS is a state agency that administers retirement assets and provides income security through a monthly retirement benefit payable to its clients, who are educators and employees of Oklahoma's public education institutions and agencies.

###

For more information contact:
Becky Wilson, (405) 521-4745