

Date: August 19, 2011
Contact: Lisa Honore, Ph.D.
Public Information Director
225-925-6446, ext. 6109

8401 United Plaza Boulevard
Baton Rouge, LA 70809
225-925-6446

#1 ranking for teachers' retirement system investment return

Baton Rouge – The Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) ended the fiscal year with a 26.76 percent return on its investments, making it the highest performing fund among public pension plans with assets greater than \$1.0 billion, according to the Wilshire Trust Universe Comparison Service (TUCS).

“We had tremendous performance from our investments. This is our strongest finish in 25 years,” said Philip Griffith, TRSL chief investment officer. “The diversification of our portfolio allowed us to capitalize on the improving markets we saw earlier this year.”

In addition to a diversified portfolio, Mr. Griffith said solid long-range investment strategies are important for the growth and stability of system assets.

“As an institution, we focus on long-range planning and don't react to day-to-day events such as the market swings we've seen in recent days,” Mr. Griffith said. “We continuously monitor our portfolio and the financial climate to ensure the diversification of our portfolio will maximize returns and minimize risk.”

Over the past 23 years, TRSL has averaged a 9 percent annualized market rate of return, which exceeds the system's target actuarial rate of 8.25 percent.

The TRSL Board of Trustees is responsible for safeguarding and managing assets held in trust to provide retirement income for system members. The Board meets monthly to develop policies for the administration of the retirement plan, monitor investment performance, review investment manager portfolios and system operations.

###