

News

For Immediate Release

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TRS Hires Investment Officer for Emerging Managers Program

Springfield, IL-The \$41.5 billion Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois (TRS) hired Juan Lopez, Jr. to serve as the emerging manager investment officer, a new position at TRS designed to further enhance the System's utilization of growing investment managers. In 2005, TRS committed \$500 million to its emerging managers program, which targets firms that have developing track records.

"TRS is dedicated to diversifying its stable of investment managers and providing the necessary support to help develop young firms who are new to the institutional investment arena," said TRS Executive Director Jon Bauman. The goal of the emerging managers program is to better utilize minority-and female-owned investment managers, as well as Illinois-based investment firms, who can ultimately graduate out of the program and manage mandates from TRS's main trust fund.

Lopez previously held investment positions at Merrill Lynch & Company, Edward Jones Investments, and Jupiter Realty Corporation. The Chicago native holds a Bachelor of Finance from the University of Illinois in Urbana-Champaign and recently earned a Master of Business Administration from the University of Chicago, Graduate School of Business.

"TRS believes Mr. Lopez will enhance the level of research, oversight, and due diligence necessary to establish productive long-term relationships with growing investment firms and to provide the support needed to reach their full potential," said TRS Chief Investment Officer Stan Rupnik.

As of June 30, 2007, TRS has awarded \$180 million dollars to five emerging managers. TRS maintains a national database of all identified emerging managers, including minority and female-owned firms. Any firms interested in the program can submit the formal questionnaire available on the TRS Web site, trs.illinois.gov. The Teachers' Retirement System serves 326,000 members outside the city of Chicago.

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