

## **News**

For Immediate Release

December 5, 2007

Contact: Eva Goltermann, Public Information Officer  
(217) 753-0968

### **TRS Opportunity Forum Promotes Diversity in Financial Arena**

CHICAGO-The Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois (TRS) advanced efforts to provide diversity within its investment program by hosting its Fourth Annual Opportunity Forum on December 4, 2007 in Chicago.

The intent of the forum is to foster relationships between TRS external investment managers and minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE). The event allows MBE firms to network with the managers, to speak with TRS trustees and staff, and to learn more about the investments of the System. TRS sets annual goals designed to increase the use of minority and female-owned broker/dealers in its investment program and encourages its public markets investment managers to adopt similar objectives. The System also keeps a national database of MBE broker/dealers.

"TRS is dedicated to providing inclusion and diversity in its own investment portfolio," said TRS Executive Director Jon Bauman. "The Teachers' Retirement System is also encouraging other institutional investors to help eliminate barriers that still exist for many minority and women-owned investment managers and broker/dealers," said Bauman.

As of June 30, 2007, the amount of TRS assets under management by MBE firms totaled \$4.9 billion, representing nearly 12 percent of the total fund. In fiscal year 2007, TRS paid equity commissions to 42 MBE broker dealers totaling \$3.1 million or nearly 15 percent of the total. Fixed income spreads were paid to 15 MBE broker dealers and rose to nearly \$4.3 million, 17.4 percent of total market value traded.

This year's Opportunity Forum included speeches given by Illinois State Senator Kwame Raoul; Jack Kemp, former Congressman and Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Michael Lee-Chin, Chairman of Portland Holdings, Inc.

"The Teachers' Retirement System continues to set the standard for encouraging parity in its investment program, and among the broader financial services industry," said Senator Raoul (D-Chicago), chairman of the Senate Pensions and Investments Committee.

TRS provides retirement, disability, and death benefits to teachers and administrators at Illinois public elementary and secondary schools outside the city of Chicago. The System serves 344,432 members and had assets of \$41.9 billion as of June 30, 2007.

-End-