



Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois

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News

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MARK E. HARRIS APPOINTED TO THE TRS BOARD

SPRINGFIELD, IL – Mark E. Harris, president and chief executive officer of the Illinois Science and Technology Coalition has been named by Gov. Pat Quinn to the Board of the Teachers' Retirement System. His appointment was effective April 4.

“With the addition of Trustee Harris, our Board better reflects the diversity of our members,” said TRS Executive Director Dick Ingram. “Public pensions in Illinois face many challenges going forward. The talents of Trustee Harris will complement the experience and skills of our current trustees as they guide TRS into the future.”

In his role as president and CEO of the Chicago-based ISTC, Trustee Harris leads the state's effort to cultivate and attract research and technology-based investment, talent and job growth to Illinois. Prior to assuming that post in 2012, he served deputy chief of staff in the governor's office, responsible for the state's economic development agenda.

Between 2007 and 2010, Trustee Harris was the associate director of the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship at the University of Chicago Booth School of Business. He served as deputy chief of staff and communications manager at the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity between 2003 and 2007.

A resident of Park Ridge, Trustee Harris has served as a teaching assistant with the University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program and as a citizenship instructor at El Centro de Educación y Cultura, of Chicago. He also serves on the Illinois Smart Grid Advisory Council, the Energy Foundry Board and the Illinois Business Immigration Coalition Steering Committee.

(MORE)

Born in Peru, Trustee Harris holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master's degree in social science from the University of Chicago.

Trustee Harris, 34, was appointed to complete the four-year term of Trustee Janice Reedus, who resigned in August of 2013. This term expires in 2016.

The other members of the TRS Board are State School Superintendent **Christopher Koch**, who by statute serves as chairman; **Sharon Leggett** of Evanston, who serves as vice chairman; **Mark Bailey** of Palos Park; **Mike Busby** of Kenilworth; **Marcia Campbell** of O'Fallon; **Rainy Kaplan** of Schaumburg; **Cinda Klickna** of Rochester; **Bob Lyons** of Hoffman Estates; **Cynthia O'Neill** of Carlyle; **Enrique Vasquez** of Cary; and **Sonia Walwyn** of Naperville. One seat on the 13-member Board, a gubernatorial appointment, remains open.

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About Teachers' Retirement System

The Teachers' Retirement System of the State of Illinois is the 39th largest pension system in the United States, and provides retirement, disability and survivor benefits to teachers, administrators and other public school personnel employed outside of Chicago. The System serves 390,000 members and had assets of \$43 billion as of February 28, 2014.