FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: January 13, 2023

## Teacher Retirement System of Texas Welcomes Three Board Trustees following Appointments, Reappointment by Governor Abbott

AUSTIN – Two new members will join the Board of Trustees for the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) following their <u>appointments this week by Governor Greg Abbott</u>, along with the reappointment of a current trustee to a second term. Terms for all three members will expire Aug. 31, 2027.

- ➤ Brittny Allred of Dallas, Texas is a principal of Luther King Capital Management, an investment advisory firm with approximately \$22 billion in assets under management. She previously held positions as an equity research associate at Stephens Inc. and investment banking analyst at J.P. Morgan Securities Inc. She is active in the philanthropic community in Dallas. She received the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) designation and is a member of the CFA Society of Dallas/Fort Worth, where she previously served on the board. Allred received a Bachelor of Business Administration from Southern Methodist University and Master of Business Administration from The University of Texas at Austin. She will serve as one of two trustees appointed by the governor from nominations by the State Board of Education.
- ➤ John Elliott of Austin, Texas is a partner in the Austin law firm Elliott Stratmann, PLLC. He is a member of the American Bar Association, State Bar of Texas, Austin Bar Association, International Council of Shopping Centers, Urban Land Institute, and the Real Estate Council of Austin. He was raised in Sonora, where his mother, Peggy, was a life-long high school and middle school teacher with the Sonora ISD until her retirement. Elliott received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from The University of Texas at Austin and a juris doctor degree from The University of Texas School of Law. He has served on the TRS Board of Trustees since 2016 as one of three trustees directly appointed by the governor. This will be Mr. Elliott's second term on the TRS Board of Trustees.
- Elvis Williams of Fair Oaks Ranch, Texas currently serves as the assistant superintendent of operations at Edgewood ISD, where he leads the Operations Division, which includes Technology, Athletics, Child Nutrition Services, Physical Plant Services, Transportation, Inventory and Warehousing, Custodial, and Planning and Construction. Previously, he held administration positions in the

Dallas, Del Valle and Huntsville ISDs. He is an active member of the Texas Association of School Administrators, Texas Association of Black School Educators, Texas Association of School Business Officials, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Mississippi Valley State University National Alumni Association, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Lions Club, Anderson Lodge #9 Free and Accepted Masons Prince Hall Affiliation, Big Brothers Big Sisters, and Bethlehem Baptist Church. He also served as a member of the U.S. Marine Corps and Army Reserves. Mr. Williams earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Mississippi Valley State University, a Master of Education degree from Dallas Baptist University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Education degree from The University of Texas at Austin. He will serve as one of two trustees appointed by the governor from public school district member candidates nominated by public school employees.

"We welcome these leaders and look forward to working closely with them for the benefit of the public education employees we serve," said **TRS Executive Director Brian Guthrie**. "Mr. Elliott has already made an impact in his first term, and currently chairs the Board's Policy Committee, where he is directly applying his legal expertise. Ms. Allred's extensive investment experience will enhance our mission to improve the retirement security of our members by prudently investing and managing the trust assets, while Mr. Williams' public school perspective, knowledge and operations leadership will further ensure we are delivering benefits that make a positive difference in our members' lives."

**TRS Board of Trustees' Chairman Jarvis Hollingsworth** stated, "Serving as a trustee is an important responsibility that requires expertise, commitment, and dedication. I'm pleased to welcome two new members to our board, who will each bring unique perspectives, as well as welcome back John Elliott, who has been an engaged trustee with members' best interests as his priority. Together, we will strive to make the best decisions as we work diligently on behalf of the educators and school employees who have dedicated their lives to helping others."

Hollingsworth added, "As we welcome our new members, I would also like to extend my thanks and appreciation to our outgoing trustees Christopher Moss and Gregory Gibson. It is important to note that Christopher Moss served in back-to-back terms as a trustee, dedicating more than a decade to TRS and its members. He has given his time and expertise to help meet TRS' mission in service to members, to include navigating unprecedented challenges such as a global pandemic. Most recently, he served as chair of the Audit, Compliance and Ethics Committee."

The new board members will be sworn in and ready to serve at the February 16-17 board meeting. TRS' Board of Trustees serves as TRS' trustee of all plan assets and is

responsible for the general administration and operation of the system. The board is composed of <u>nine appointed members</u>, who serve staggered terms of six years. The newest appointments are not related to the <u>current nomination period</u> for the expiring At-Large and Retiree member trustee positions. The nomination period will close January 25, 2023, followed by the election to be held March 15-May 5. The top three candidates for each position will be submitted for the governor's consideration and appointment for terms beginning Sept. 1, 2023.

About TRS—Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) is one of the largest retirement systems in the nation. The system's core mission is to make a positive difference in the lives of more than 1.9 million active and retired Texas educators by prudently investing and managing trust assets and delivering member benefits. As of Sept. 30, 2022, the TRS pension fund had a market value of \$173.3 billion.