



Mendocino County Employees' Retirement Association

NEWS RELEASE

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Mendocino County Board of Retirement Appoints Administrator

At its meeting on December 3, 2014, the Board for the Mendocino County Employees' Retirement Association (MCERA) unanimously appointed James Wilbanks as their new Retirement Administrator.

Mr. Wilbanks was employed as an economist and financial executive by the State of Oklahoma for seventeen years. The last five years he served as the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System (OTRS). As the Executive Director for a statewide retirement system, Mr. Wilbanks oversaw investment strategies for pension assets and administration of benefits for roughly 155,000 members. In 2012, Money Management Intelligence Magazine recognized OTRS as the best mid-sized pension plan investor in the country. Mr. Wilbanks has also been an adjunct professor of economics at the University of Oklahoma and, most recently, Oklahoma City University. He earned his Doctorate, Masters and Bachelor degrees in economics from the University of Oklahoma, and serves on the Oklahoma State Treasurer's Investment Advisory Committee.

MCERA contracted with Alliance Resource Consulting to conduct a search for its new Retirement Administrator. The executive search firm recently completed similar recruitments for Fresno and Santa Barbara counties. Mr. Wilbanks was recommended to the MCERA Board of Retirement by the search firm after interviews and in depth research of many qualified candidates. He was unanimously approved by the Board after conducting its own extensive interviews. The Board believes that Mr. Wilbanks is uniquely qualified to continue work toward creating a mature, sustainable retirement system that is managed through carefully developed policies and sound information. With his expertise in economics and his experience as a professor, the Board also believes that Mr. Wilbanks is the right person to engage stakeholders in continuing discussions about public pension plans, including how best to ensure MCERA will be able to meet its obligation to pay pension benefits in an environment of scarce funding resources for local governments.

Released by:

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Shari Schapmire, Chair

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