

**For Immediate Release**  
**September 26, 2017**

## **LASERS Assets Increase to \$12 Billion**

**Baton Rouge**— The Louisiana State Employees' Retirement System (LASERS) actuarial value of assets grew to \$12 billion, an increase of \$347 million from the prior year, as reported in the annual valuation for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2017. The valuation report was accepted by the LASERS Board of Trustees on September 21 and reflected other positive news for LASERS and the State of Louisiana.

LASERS 30-year average compounded actuarial return exceeds eight (8) percent and LASERS funded ratio increased from 62.6 to 63.7 percent. The Unfunded Accrued Liability (UAL), or debt owed to the System by the State of Louisiana, decreased by \$130 million.

Payroll for our active members declined by \$20 million. The employer cost of benefits being earned by current employees decreased to 3.75 percent, which should be compared to the 6.2 percent the State would be required to pay if employees were enrolled in Social Security. Employees in LASERS pay nearly 70 percent of the cost of their earned benefits.

"The success and sustainability of LASERS is evident in our latest valuation report, as well as the cost savings that benefit Louisiana," LASERS Executive Director Cindy Rougeou said. "For three years, there was a decrease in the amount the State paid to LASERS through employer contributions. We expect continued stability as LASERS discount rate is incrementally lowered to 7.50 percent over the next four years."

To read the complete LASERS Annual Actuarial Valuation, refer to the Annual Reports page on the LASERS website, [www.lasersonline.org](http://www.lasersonline.org).

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