



## **MEDIA ALERT**

**AUGUST 18, 2009**

### **FPPTA Launches “*Media Web Room*”**

New link will assist editors, reporters, researchers

**TALLAHASSEE** --- The Florida Public Pension Trustees Association has opened a Media Web Room. The new link on the [www.fppta.org](http://www.fppta.org) web site is designed to assist editors, reporters and researchers obtain information and statistical data regarding public pensions and public pension defined benefit plans in the state of Florida.

There are 488 local defined benefit plans that cover 163,598 active and retired members. The Florida Retirement System is the statewide system that covers 1,006,004 active and retired members – it is a defined benefit plan with an option to replace defined benefit with a defined contribution plan, and approximately 15 percent of retirees have elected to do so. The FPPTA provides educational and support services to all pension boards throughout the state. Programs include local continuing education courses, seminars and an annual professional development conference for members statewide. The FPPTA also promotes and offers certification for trustee members who complete a three-tier educational program to enhance financial management skills.

The FPPTA has developed a rich archive of data for cost analysis, operational analysis and statistical comparisons between defined benefit plans and defined contribution plans, as well as reference materials and research on the economics of DB pension plans.

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The new Media Web Room content will include press release announcements, position papers, editorial and opinion content, research data, and a direct contact feature that will allow media members to request specific information directly through the web site. Individual requests for specific data, professional referrals, or for FPPTA on-the-record comment will be provided upon request whenever possible. Every inquiry will receive a response.

FPPTA Chief Executive Officer, Ray Edmondson says of the new link, “A significant number of Floridians employed in state and municipal jobs are deeply affected by decisions about public pensions. We have a reservoir of very good research and analysis about the value of public pension programs, even when comparing hard numbers. This new link should help contribute to the most balanced view of the subject.”

For additional information or requests please visit [www.fppta.org](http://www.fppta.org) or contact:

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