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Office of the Treasurer, gabrielle.farrell@ct.gov

## TREASURER WOODEN ANNOUNCES OVER \$500M IN COMMITMENTS; PRESENTS PRIVATE EQUITY OPPORTUNITIES WITH STELLEX AND LEEDS

Hartford, CT -- At today's meeting of the Investment Advisory Council (IAC), Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden announced the completion of successful contract negotiations with Hg Partners, with a commitment of 55 million euros to Hg Genesis 9 and \$100 million to Hg Saturn 2 Funds. Additionally, he announced his decision to commit \$100 million to the Altaris Health Partners Fund V, \$75 million to the Homestead Capital USA Farmland Fund III and \$150 million to the Rockpoint Real Estate Fund V.

"In Connecticut, we are fortunate to be well positioned and continue to make key investments," said State Treasurer Wooden. "I'm excited to announce commitments to these best in class private market partners with strong investment teams whose strategies will do well in the current market environment."

Treasurer Wooden also presented two additional private investment funds currently under consideration -- Stellex Capital Partners Fund II and Leeds Capital Partners Fund VII. Stellex will focus on special situations and distressed investments in underperforming or undervalued middle market companies, and Leeds will focus on private equity investments in the education, training and information services sectors.

Treasurer Wooden welcomed Ellen Shuman as the new IAC chair. D. Ellen Shuman has worked in endowment management for over 30 years. In 2013 she co-founded Edgehill Endowment Partners, a firm that operates as a full-service investment office to steward the endowment assets of a limited number of mission-based institutions. Prior to founding Edgehill, Ms. Shuman spent the prior 25 years at the Yale University Investments Office (1986-1998) and as the Chief Investment Officer of the Carnegie Corporation of New York, a private foundation (1999-2011).

"Ellen comes to the IAC at a critical time in the markets and her experience navigating volatility and market cycle changes will be extremely valuable in the months and years ahead," said State Treasurer Wooden. "I'm confident her insights will help further the work done in the Office of the Treasurer on behalf of the people of Connecticut."

Treasurer Wooden also announced that preliminary results showed that the positive returns for the month of April pared the fiscal year to date losses for the Connecticut Retirement Plans and Trust Funds' (CRPTF). He stated that the steps taken in 2019 and 2020 to de-risk the portfolio and expand the asset allocation will provide downside protection in the current environment while allowing the portfolio to invest in differentiated strategies during this economic cycle and beyond.

Principal Investment Officers Danita Johnson (Real Assets) and Mark Evans (Private Capital) reviewed the annual strategic pacing plans for private market investments, which provide a road map for commitments in the coming year.

Furthermore, the Treasurer also reported on the successful 60% vote by shareholders of Johnson & Johnson in favor of a resolution co-filed by Connecticut, as a part of a coalition including other institutional investors. The resolution called for the company's board of directors to investigate and report to investors on opioid-related risks to the company.

"Our shareholder engagement with pharmaceutical companies has been one of my top priorities for the 2020 proxy season," continued State Treasurer Wooden. "As the country focuses attention on the COVID-19 crisis, the opioid epidemic continues to have a devastating impact on communities here in Connecticut and across the country."

## **About the Investment Advisory Council (IAC)**

Treasurer Wooden is the principal fiduciary of the CRPTF and is an ex-officio member of the State's independent IAC. The IAC is comprised of five public members with investment experience that are appointed by the Governor and legislative leadership; three representatives of the teachers' unions; and two representatives of the state employees' unions. In addition, the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management is an ex-officio member. More information regarding the IAC and its responsibilities may be found <a href="https://example.com/hem2">hem2</a>.

## **About the Office of the State Treasurer**

Under the leadership of Connecticut's State Treasurer Shawn T. Wooden, the Office of the Treasurer is dedicated to safeguarding the state's financial resources and taxpayers' dollars, while maximizing returns and minimizing risks and operating at the highest professional and ethical standards. Through investments and disbursements, the office continues to enhance the state's fiscal stability, financial literacy, college savings, and its approach to leveraging business partnerships to combat social issues such as gun violence, climate change, and equal opportunity in economic growth. Learn more about the Office of the Treasurer at portal.ct.gov/ott and follow along on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

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