

James R. Wilbanks, Ph.D.

Retirement Administrator

James Wilbanks has served as the Retirement Administrator of the Mendocino County Employees Retirement Association since January of 2015. In this role he applies his philosophy of team-focused leadership directed toward continuous improvement in the areas of board governance, investments and operations of the association. During his tenure with the Association, Dr. Wilbanks has assisted the Board in the development and implementation of a Strategic Plan, initiated and completed several IT projects to stream-line Association operations, implemented cost saving measures resulting in \$250,000 savings and increased the Association's communications with both Clients and the public.

Prior to joining Mendocino County, Dr. Wilbanks was the Executive Director of the Oklahoma Teachers Retirement System where he led a cultural overhaul resulting in savings to the fund of over \$20 M, reducing operating expenses by more than 25% while improving service levels to Clients.

Dr. Wilbanks served in a number of positions in Oklahoma State Government prior to joining Teachers Retirement, with appointments in the Oklahoma State Treasurer's Office and the Oklahoma Office of State Finance. He also served on the Board of Trustees of the Oklahoma Law Enforcement Retirement System, the Oklahoma Firefighters Pension System and the Oklahoma Police Pension Retirement System.

In addition to state and local government service, Dr. Wilbanks also regularly teaches course in economics and finance at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Dr. Wilbanks holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Oklahoma.