

LOLO CHOOSES RMC MASTER of EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP GRADUATE
for PRINCIPAL POST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Dale Olinger, who will graduate from Rocky Mountain College’s Master of Educational Leadership in June, has been chosen to be the principal at Lolo (Mont.) Elementary School.

Lolo School Superintendent Michael A. Magone announced the decision to hire Olinger on January 26, stating that Linger was chosen from 50 applicants; six were interviewed.

“After a very thorough analysis and discussion, we all agree that Dale Olinger is our pick,” Supt. Magone stated.

Olinger will complete the MEL at Rocky this June. The MEL program was described as “a model for the state and the region” by the Montana Office of Public Instruction in April 2010.

“The Master of Educational Leadership program at Rocky prepared me with the tools I need to be a school leader,” Olinger said. “The internship-based program provides practical tools for educational leaders and helps students put those tools into practice in real schools.”

Olinger praised the RMC staff.

“The extensive knowledge of the professors is matched only by their ability to challenge students to grow as leaders and who are ready for their new profession. I highly recommend the Master of Educational Leadership program at Rocky for anyone who is considering a career in school leadership,” he said.

Olinger, who graduated from the University of Montana in 2006, is currently and 7th and 8th grade science teacher at Lolo School.

“I’m delighted to serve the community of Lolo, who has welcomed me into their family,” Olinger said about his appointment. “Becoming a school leader is not a means to get out of the classroom, but a way to have a positive impact on every student in the school. I will miss my time as a classroom teacher, but look forward to leading Lolo teachers in their efforts toward continuous school improvement.”

The RMC Master of Educational Leadership is designed to help fill the increasing vacancies in school administration across the state and nationwide. This is another degree not offered anywhere else in eastern Montana except at RMC. The new RMC master's degree provides for an accelerated 11-month program of study, with online, face-to-face, and interactive television instruction. The program is modeled on the Effective Schools Research, developed by Dr. Larry Lezotte as well as the state and national standards for school administration. The program covers theory to practice. Besides courses offered at a distance, program participants will have mentors at their school location. The program covers K-12 administration, so successful graduates will be qualified to fill a wide range of positions in elementary and high school. After program completion, students will be able to apply for licensure as a principal or superintendent.

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