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UM NAMES NEW INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS DIRECTOR

MISSOULA --

A university social scientist and international specialist on economic reform and natural resource management has been named to oversee The University of Montana—Missoula’s international programs.

Mark W. Lusk, director of the School of Social Work at Boise State University since 1993, will take the helm of UM’s Office of International Programs July 15, said President George Dennison. Lusk was chosen from a field of 275 applicants from around the world and was one of five finalists who visited campus in the past month for interviews.

He replaces Peter Koehn, who resigned the position earlier this year to teach political science fulltime at UM.

As international programs director, Lusk is responsible for selecting students and faculty to participate in formal exchange programs with universities worldwide, promoting UM’s research agenda abroad and strengthening relationships with overseas exchange institutions.

Lusk has taught at the University of Wyoming and Utah State University and has served as visiting professor under Fulbright Fellowships at universities in Peru and Brazil. He also served as a United States Information Agency exchange professor at the University of Costa Rica and visiting professor at the University of Guyana.

"Dr. Lusk brings a wonderful background and range of experience, which will assist us
immensely as we move into a new phase of international program development," Dennison said.

Lusk said UM already has a well-developed portfolio of university affiliations and exchange programs across the globe. He looks forward to being involved in an area that is gaining importance at UM and throughout the nation.

"Study abroad is a key part of liberal arts education and has become increasingly important to the sciences and professions," Lusk said. "I think we’re moving very much into a global economy, and no profession or discipline will be immune to the effects of globalization."

The son of a foreign service officer, Lusk grew up in Latin America and speaks fluent Spanish and Portuguese. He earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from New Mexico State University and a master’s of social work and doctorate in higher education from the University of Kentucky.

He has worked as a specialist on irrigation systems management projects in the Dominican Republic, Egypt and Pakistan. Next month he will return to Kazakhstan in the former Soviet Union as a specialist for the World Bank’s irrigation and drainage improvement program, which he has worked on for the past year.

From 1987 to 1992 Lusk served as director of the Institute for International Rural and Community Development at Utah State University. He has written more than 40 scientific and technical papers on topics ranging from Latin American street children to the assimilation of Indochinese refugees.

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