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### Montana virtual academy hires first director

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**NEWS RELEASE**

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Dec. 7, 2009

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**MONTANA VIRTUAL ACADEMY HIRES FIRST DIRECTOR**

**MISSOULA –**

Experienced educator Robert Currie has been named the first director of the Montana Virtual Academy (MTVA), an effort by the state Legislature to make online distance-learning opportunities available to all school-age children in public schools across Big Sky Country.

Currie has directed the Michigan Virtual School in Lansing for the past six years. He will start his new duties in Montana on Jan. 4, 2010. The MTVA Governing Board made the hiring decision Dec. 7 in Helena.

During his career in Springport and Marshall, Mich., Currie has worked as an assistant high school principal, high school principal, assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction, and district superintendent.

MTVA is based at The University of Montana in the new Phyllis J. Washington Education Center. Registration for high school classes will begin next spring, and courses will be delivered at the start of the 2010-2011 school year. Course work will be taught by highly qualified Montana-licensed educators.

For more information about MTVA, call administrative associate Rayleen Hicks at 406-243-4619, email [rayleen.hicks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:rayleen.hicks@mso.umt.edu) or visit <http://mtva.us>.

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