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### Dean of Education, James M. Thrasher, resigns

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# NEWS

FROM

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FOR RELEASE

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 1966

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7-25-66

UM EDUCATION  
DEAN RESIGNS

Dr. James M. Thrasher, dean of the University of Montana School of Education since 1964 has submitted his resignation to President Robert Johns, effective Oct. 1.

Dr. Thrasher will become director of the Rocky Mountain Educational Laboratory, Inc., which covers an eight state region of the mountain west including Montana.

He and his family will continue to reside in Missoula until June 1967. The main office for the Educational Lab is in Denver.

Dr. Thrasher will be the director of one of 15 such labs across the nation. He said the challenging work of the laboratory will keep him on the very frontier of American education innovation.

President Johns accepted the resignation with regret saying, "I feel your leaving will certainly be a great loss to the University of Montana as well as the School of Education."

Dr. Laurence E. Gale, UM academic vice president, will become the acting dean of the School of Education, effective Oct. 1. The appointment was made by President Johns and Robert T. Pantzer, UM financial vice president, who becomes acting president of the University on Aug. 15.

President Johns and Pantzer also appointed a university-wide faculty screening committee to help select a new education school dean.

The committee is composed of Dr. Fred S. Honkala, dean of the UM graduate school,

(more)

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who will serve as chairman; Dr. Firman H. Brown, drama chairman; Dr. Warren Carrier, English chairman; Dr. Mark J. Jakobson, physics professor; Dr. Kenneth V. Lottick and Dr. George H. Millis, education professors; Dr. Leslie Pengelly, forestry associate professor; and Dr. James M. Whitehouse, psychology associate professor.

Since his arrival at the University on Sept. 1, 1964, Dr. Thrasher has implemented three important programs in addition to his administrative and teaching duties.

The programs are the Upward Bound grant for \$82,586, the Regional School Facilities Planning Center grant from Educational Facilities Laboratories, Inc. for \$18,000 and the Community Action Implementation for Indian Reservations subcontract for \$37,237.

Dr. Thrasher came to Missoula from his post as superintendent of schools at Pasco, Wash. He replaced Dr. Linus Carleton, who had been dean of the UM School of Education for ten years and who returned to teaching education at the University.

Dr. Thrasher holds B.A., B.Ed. and M.Ed. degrees from Washington State University in Pullman. He received his Ed.D. degree from Colorado State College in Greeley in 1960, with a major in school administration.

In addition to posts as principal in two schools and superintendent of three school systems, he was a consultant in school planning on the Washington State Board of Education, 1958 to 1961.