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BRUCE WHITTENBERG VERBALLY ACCEPTS JOB AS NEW HISTORICAL SOCIETY DIRECTOR

The Montana Historical Society announced Tuesday that Bruce Whittenberg has accepted the job as the new Director of the Montana Historical Society.

"I'm excited by the opportunity to join such a talented group of people and trust that I can find a way to add value to their work," Whittenberg said. "I also hope to continue the work of Interim Director Mike Cooney and help Montanan's recognize what a jewel we have in the Historical Society."

The 15-member Society Board of Trustees that includes people from all across Montana selected Whittenberg from a list of more than 30 applications.

"The Montana Historical Society is about celebrating Montana's past, but also helping prepare for Montana's future," Whittenberg said.

Whittenberg will officially take over the reins of the Society Sept. 6, succeeding Cooney who has served as interim director for 10 months.

"Bruce is the person who can bring the leadership, experience and vision to take the Society and our many valuable programs to the next level," Cooney said.

Whittenberg has had a long and diverse association with Montana State University Billings since 2001 and currently is director of its Center for Business Enterprise.

From 2003 to 2011 he was the executive director of Leadership Montana Inc. where he worked with a diverse group of Montana leaders to create a statewide leadership program and boost economic and community development by building strong leaders.

Since 2002 he also has run his own consulting business, The Whittenberg Group.

He worked for many years for Lee Enterprises of Davenport, Iowa, in many areas including sales and marketing and daily operations of newspapers. He came to Montana in 1993 to become publisher of Lee's Helena Independent Record, and in 1998 went on to serve as publisher of the Billings Gazette until 2000.

Whittenberg is a 1975 Bachelor of Arts graduate from Southern Illinois University majoring in Public Relations/Speech with a minor in journalism.