



250 East 500 South
P.O. Box 144200
Salt Lake City, UT 84114-4200
801.538.7500

UTAH STATE OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Contact: Mark Peterson, public relations director
801-538-7635 · mark.peterson@schools.utah.gov

Thelin Named Director of Utah State Office of Rehabilitation

SALT LAKE CITY – State Superintendent of Public Instruction Martell Menlove announced today that Russell J. Thelin has been named director of the Utah State Office of Rehabilitation replacing Donald R. Uchida who is retiring following a 45-year career with the state.

“Russ has extensive experience in a variety of leadership roles at the Office of Rehabilitation,” Menlove said. “His leadership abilities will serve the office well. He has many years of experience in providing quality services to individuals with disabilities.”

Thelin, of Cedar Valley, has been director of the office’s Division of Rehabilitation Services since 2006 and prior to that served as the office’s administrative services coordinator and as both a field service and district director.

The Utah State Office of Rehabilitation has been governed by the Utah State Board of Education since 1921. The office provides assistance to individuals with disabilities to prepare for and obtain employment and to increase their independence. The office has an annual budget of \$76.5 million. Its vocational rehabilitation program served nearly 31,000 Utahns in 2012 and was able to help nearly 3,500 of them successfully find employment.