

Marv Lamer leaves VACTE for state post

Superintendent since district formed in 2001



Philip Wright
Staff Reporter

COTTONWOOD - Dr. Marv Lamer has accepted a position with the Arizona Department of Education. He has served as Superintendent of the Valley Academy for Career and Technology Education since it formed in 2001.

Lamer spoke with the Verde Independent via telephone Tuesday morning.

"It was an appointment to the position," Lamer said. "So there was no application process."

Lamer will serve as Associate Superintendent for Highly Effective Schools. He explained that some of the areas he will be responsible for are current technology, special education and No Child Left Behind. He said there are a number of areas in his new job responsibilities that are related to reorganization of ADE and are designed to deliver services more effectively.

"The new superintendent is reconfiguring the leadership team," Lamer said.

John Huppenthal was elected as Superintendent of Public Instruction in November, and he took office in January.

Lamer said Huppenthal has a chief deputy. "I'm in the group right below that," he said. Lamer currently reports directly to the superintendent.

For now, Lamer is spending most of his time during the week in Phoenix, and he is available on weekends in Cottonwood to help VACTE with its transition of administration.

"They've allowed me to take the time necessary to assist the folks at VACTE," Lamer said.

His wife, Lois Lamer, still works for VACTE.

Steve Dockray, President of the VACTE Governing Board, expects a smooth transition to a new administration.

"The board has appointed Ms. Lois Lamer as our Chief Executive Officer while the board defines the criteria for our next administrative officer," Dockray stated in an email.

Lamer said he was blessed to be able to create the VACTE school district. Including his time at



Marv Lamer

VACTE since 2001, Lamer spent 18 years in the Verde Valley as a school administrator. He was superintendent of Mingus Union High School from 1993 until the end of the school year in 2000.

Lamer said he isn't sure exactly what the steps will be for VACTE to conduct a search for a new superintendent.

"They will need to start the search process," he said. "But they will move slowly through the process."