FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BILLINGS – Robert J. Wilmouth, who has been director of the Rocky Mountain College Masters of Physician Assistant Studies Program, will become interim president at the college, January 1, 2013, according to RMC Board Chair Carl A. Hansen.

Dr. Wilmouth has long experience as a professor, director and administrator, spanning a career as a medical doctor specializing in cardiac, thoracic and vascular surgery.

“Dr. Wilmouth was instrumental in reviving our Physician Assistant program, making it one of the best in the region. With his background and experience, we believe he will serve well as our interim president while we conduct a national search for a permanent president,” Hansen said.

RMC has contracted with AGB Search to conduct the presidential search. The Washington, D.C.-based company assists colleges and universities with recruiting, selection and transitioning new executive leaders. Bruce T. Alton, who was RMC president from 1975-1986, and is an AGB Search consultant, is coordinating the search in conjunction with the RMC Search Committee, chaired by Barb Skelton, immediate past board chair. Partnering is Dr. Loren Anderson, a consultant who is retired president of Pacific Lutheran University.

“I think we have a unique opportunity to use a firm with someone like Dr. Alton who is familiar with the college and the region, and is well versed in higher education to participate in this search,” Hansen said.

The search will be as inclusive as possible with broad participation by faculty, staff and other constituencies of the college, and Dr. Wilmouth will also be considered, according to Hansen. The RMC Board of Trustees will make the final decision.

“I welcome this opportunity to be of further service to an outstanding college. I am excited with the potential to help Rocky become an even better college and want to do whatever I can to advance that effort,” Dr. Wilmouth said.

Dr. Wilmouth will fill the position vacated by Michael R. Mace, who announced his retirement in September.

Dr. Wilmouth has been director of the physician assistant program since 2008. While his career was chiefly spent as a doctor, surgeon and medical director, he also has extensive experience in higher education. He served on the faculty of the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, Cambridge, Mass., was a clinical instructor, Division of Cardiothoracic Surgery, New York University, and the Department of Surgery at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center. He was named Outstanding Teacher in Family Practice by the American Academy of Family Physicians and was presented the Golden Apple Award for Outstanding Resident Teacher in Surgery at the University of Colorado.

Dr. Wilmouth earned his bachelor’s degree at Notre Dame University, did postgraduate studies at Department of Microbiology at Chicago’s Roosevelt University and earned his medical degree at the University of Illinois School of Medicine. He also studied computer science with the IBM Corporation and completed a medical officer basic course at the Academy of Health Sciences at Fort Sam Houston, Texas.

His involvement in community organizations includes serving on the board of directors for Riverstone Health, United Way of Yellowstone County, American Heart Association of Yellowstone County, as well as the boards of numerous national health organizations, including Regional Node, Institute for Healthcare Improvement, and Board of Directors, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health Foundation of Montana, Wyoming, Alaska and Hawaii.

Listed among his areas of interest are fundraising, executive communication, cost containment, marketing/outreach, and governance.

Wilmouth, 56, and his wife, Liz, have two children.