

## Relationships & Communications Meeting January 24th, 2019

### Attendees:

Vanessa Sherman: Peru Community Impact Group (PCIG) and Steering Committee Member

Theresa Westfall: PCIG and Cemetery Auxiliary

Elaine Hanson: Peru State College, First Lady

Vanessa led introductions and a review of the origination of the planning team and the ImPERUing as ONE process, including mission and vision.

Discussion of group outcomes began with defining how we might know we are successful as a team:

- Feeling of “Connectedness” for everyone (residents, visitors, students, etc.)
- Everyone working together for the betterment of the community, not just college or just town

Goals to reach this vision or outcome:

- Helping visitors, students and new residents to the community feel welcome with welcome and/or visitor packets
- Regular publications or communications with residents and visitors about what’s going on in Peru – newsletter that used to be distributed was great, quarter events listing by PCIG is a great piece but would like to see more than just events to keep people engaged in what all is happening in Peru
- Keeping the community involved and informed – posting minutes and agendas on websites of city council and groups that meet
- Bring back BINGO events or some sort of gatherings each month – game nights, dinners, snacks, etc. where everyone is welcome (including students) to begin building relationships and feeling connected on both sides
- Mentoring or Peru Parents idea or more focus on group events and facilitating relationship building among students and residents
- Community calendar (Kiwanis example) – way for the community to make connections with one another-knowing each others b-day or special events to celebrate
- Bringing students downtown during New Student Weekend – scavenger hunt idea, take them on trail, city hall, museum, etc.

The group narrowed down their focus to 3 priority areas. Vanessa mentioned to the group that several of the items discussed have been ideas of PCIG also, therefore, collaboration among groups will be key moving forward. 1<sup>st</sup> priority for this group would be connecting the community and students through group events that involve students and residents. Elaine will check on upcoming events at the college and Vanessa will visit with PCIG members about re-establishing a regular BINGO or game night downtown and options with City Hall. Gathering feedback during events to know what students would like to do in the community and what residents would like to do on campus will help build relationships and foster new ideas. 2<sup>nd</sup> priority would be enhancing the communication pieces like a community calendar, re-

establishing a newsletter, welcome packets, etc. 3<sup>rd</sup> would be focusing on New Student Weekend and a welcome event for students to feel a part of the community and to introduce residents to incoming students.

Next meeting: TBD