Campus Community:

The past week has been filled with ongoing national and regional uncertainty. I am thankful to work with mission-focus faculty and staff during this challenging time. I am confident we can provide for the safety of students, faculty and staff while continuing our academic mission.

My cabinet and the College’s emergency response team have been meeting to discuss the possible impacts of Coronavirus (COVID-19) since February. That team held a tabletop exercise on this topic on February 26 and this prepared us to meet with the Southeast District Health Department and other stakeholders early in March. Following this work, the on-campus Emergency Management Team is meeting daily.

Peru State College also shares many decision-making priorities with the Nebraska State College System and its sister colleges. Together we are working through the difficult decisions facing the State Colleges. Some questions remain to be answered, but we hold daily video conferences with the System and our sister colleges to address these questions.

As of writing this note, Peru State College has no confirmed or suspected cases of Coronavirus. This is good news, but it does not absolve us of the need to take extraordinary precautions. Out of an abundance of caution, we moved our face-to-face classes completely online for the foreseeable future, starting next week. This decision has been confirmed by federal and state recommendations to limit gatherings to ten or fewer people. On-campus events are also being postponed or cancelled to meet this new recommendation.

More details about how we move forward will come from the Emergency Management Team in the coming days. Please know that in addition to employees (and their families’) health and safety, our priorities will remain the same:

- high quality educational opportunities
- customer service that proves to our students they are more than a number
- retention and persistence to graduation
- the physical and emotional well-being of our students

I have asked Amy Mincer to coordinate with various groups and departments to meet with me tomorrow. A schedule of these meetings is attached to this e-mail. If you are on campus, I hope you can join us in one of these small group meetings as we discuss how the College will move forward. Please RSVP with the contact indicated on the attachment. Hearing from you will help me better understand the challenges you face at this time.

Peru State College remains committed to the certainty found in its mission, vision and upholding our values. I am grateful to work with you and everyone that shares this dedication to our students. We will see this time through, guiding Peru State College together, as has been done more than 150 years.

Sincerely,
Dan Hanson
President
Peru State College