

(Peru, Neb.) Peru State College (PSC) today announced that Bill and Lee Sapp of Sapp Bros. Travel Centers and Petroleum have pledged \$500,000 to the college's Oak Bowl Project, the largest single non-estate gift in the institution's history.

Lee and Bill Sapp are donating the funds to honor their mother, Emilie Hubka Sapp, and sisters Veloura Sapp Barnard and Zelma Sapp Drake, all of whom attended Peru State and taught in Nebraska country schools.

Bill Sapp said, "Our family understands the importance of education. During the Great Depression, our father, a cattle feeder, lost everything. Our mother, being a very positive person, encouraged her children to go to college as an education is something no one can ever take away. We are making this gift to honor our mother and sisters who spent their lives educating others."

Lee Sapp said, "Our family is very important to us. I couldn't have had a better mother and sisters. All of our accomplishments are due to their strength, love, faith and focus on the importance of education. By helping Peru State, we are helping students throughout southeast Nebraska get a quality education at a reasonable price."

PSC President Dan Hanson said, "Thanks to the generosity of Bill and Lee Sapp, Peru State is another step closer to realizing an important vision for our future. I want to thank them for investing in the future of our college, students and southeast Nebraska. Their gift is a wonderful way to honor their beloved mother and sisters who dedicated so much of their lives to teaching others."

Earlier this year the Nebraska Legislature passed LB 968 which appropriates \$7.5 million toward the Oak Bowl's renovation. Total costs for the Oak Bowl project, including a Fieldhouse, are estimated at \$14 million. To complete the project in its entirety the college is working to generate private gifts and donations.

Hanson said, "The state's willingness to invest in our future is largely due to the college's progress and forward momentum over the past several years. This is an exciting time for Peru State and we look forward to making a facility enhancement that is a critical part of our comprehensive campus improvement plan."

For more information regarding the Oak Bowl project or how to help in the early stages of this process, contact the Peru State College Foundation at pscfoundation@peru.edu or 402-872-2304.