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## PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

Contact: Megan Davidson

[Megan@VermillionChamber.com](mailto:Megan@VermillionChamber.com)

605.624.5571



## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: PLAINS SPEAKING PEOPLE AND THE VERMILLION COMMUNITY WANT TO HEAR YOUR STORIES

**Vermillion, SD., August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2021** – The Vermillion Area Chamber & Development Company (VCDC) is excited to invite Vermillion Area community members to submit a 'life story' for the chance to participate in an upcoming storytelling event at the 2021 VCDC Annual Banquet.

The Annual Banquet is the premier event on the VCDC calendar and traditionally has featured keynote speakers from across the country, sharing ideas and innovative solutions on a range of topics. This year, the VCDC is partnering with Plains Speaking People, an organization dedicated to sharing the stories of South Dakota.

"We have plenty of stories to tell right here in our own community," commented Nate Welch, President and CEO of the VCDC. "Everyone has a story that is integral to who they are as a person; a story that explains a formative part of their past. We would love for you to submit a story that is important to you. If the story has something to do with South Dakota or its people, it's fair game!"

Plains Speaking People is interested in the kinds of stories you tell around the kitchen table. These stories, the ones that have a connection to South Dakota or its people, are the ones they're looking for. Kim Bartling, the founder of Plains Speaking People, saw a need in the community to hear real-life stories from one another. The act of sharing personal histories with one another is a powerful one, and it is becoming less and less common to sit down, listen, and have an honest connection with people. This disappearing connection to others was exacerbated by the pandemic.



“Whether is humorous, sad, harrowing, reflective or inspiring, Plains Speaking People and the VCDC want to hear your best 10-minute story. If the pandemic has taught us anything, it is that we don’t have to travel to faraway places to make lasting memories. This past year has reminded us that true connection is best found around a kitchen table and in our small communities. And now we want you to share your best South Dakota story. We’re ready to listen!” said Kim Bartling, founder and Director of Plains Speaking People.

To pitch your story, visit the Plains Speaking People website at <https://plainsspeakingpeople.com/submit>. Please be sure to review their story guidelines (no gossip, treat yourself and others with respect, be a good global citizen etc.) and their story submission requirements. Nominees can either submit a two-minute video or a brief, written outline of their story. You can also view past performances and listen to some of South Dakota’s storytellers to get a better idea about what they are looking for. The deadline for submitting your story pitch is Tuesday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

For more information about Plains Speaking People, how you can submit your story or the 2021 VCDC Annual Banquet, contact Megan Davidson, Director of Strategic Communications & Tourism at [Megan@VermillionChamber.com](mailto:Megan@VermillionChamber.com) or call the VCDC offices at 605.624.5571.