

Purdue Peace Projects works to solve disputes

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(WISH Photo, file)

WEST LAFAYETTE, Ind. (AP) — A group from Purdue University that seeks to resolve disputes among groups in West African countries has its first success story.

Purdue Peace Project Director Stacey Connaughton says a dispute in Berekum, Ghana, had lasted since the year 2000 over who was the chief. And with the December 2012 Ghana parliamentary elections approaching, there was concern about possible political violence.

Purdue got involved in early 2012 and helped local citizens resolve the situation through a peace committee consisting only of local citizens. Last September, Berekum announced it had a new, approved chief.

Throughout its involvement, the Purdue team collects data and interviews people about the conflict and the process to resolve it.

The Purdue Peace project also is working with communities in Liberia and Nigeria to resolve community conflicts.

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