Kathryn Costello

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The new year means a new face leading the fundraising efforts at Western Kentucky University.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham introduces us to the person tapped to wrap up the current capitol campaign and then strategize for the future.

Her name is Kathryn Costello and she’s known her new boss Gary Ransdell since the 80’s when they worked together at Southern Methodist University.

Now she’s putting her 30 years of experience in higher education to work at WKU.

“This is a great success story in higher education and it’s just at the beginning of its potential.”

Kathryn Costello is excited to help WKU realize that potential in her new role as Vice President for Development and Alumni relations.

In her first few weeks on the job, Costello is getting to know her staff and continuing the job of closing out the 200 million dollar campaign next year.

“The last wave is the hardest in many ways, you put so much effort in the beginning of the campaign to get the largest possible gift.”

The campaign currently stands at 175 million. Costello is confident they will surpass their goal and be ready to look toward the future.

“The next phase is to increase research productivity and add a different dimension to the university.”

She hopes her time spent at universities like Rice, SMU, Georgia and Vanderbilt will add value as she helps Dr. Ransdell continue to shape WKU’s future.

“I think Gary wanted somebody with really wide experience and I had been at some of the best universities which means I could see how they got there and how they sustain it.”

Costello replaced Tom Hiles who left WKU last summer for Bowling Green State University. With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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