Freida Eggleton – 25 years

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When WKU hosts commencement ceremonies this weekend, it will mark the 25th year they’ve been coordinated by the same person.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham talks with long-time Registrar Freida Eggleton about the changes she’s seen since 1986.

 “I have coordinated 53 Western ceremonies over the past 25 years.”

That number will jump to 55 after this weekend when Registrar Freida Eggleton presides

over WKU’s two commencement ceremonies.

 “The challenge is to make sure all details are taken care of.”

Eggleton has been taking care of details at WKU since the early 70’s where she started as an assistant residence hall director while working on her masters.

Her next job on campus involved working with a familiar face.

 “During the two years I worked in the Office of University School Relations, my office mate was Gary Ransdell who travelled and visited high schools in the Eastern part of the state while I travelled and visited in the Western part of the state.”

Eggleton says the following eight years in the office of Scholar Development prepared her well for her role as Registrar.

 “Some of the things I did in that position are now the responsibility of the office of the registrar.”

Technology has brought dramatic changes to the registrars office making registering for class a very convenient process.

But while the staff size hasn’t changed, the number of ceremonies certainly has.

 “We now have six ceremonies a year and that is all directly related to dramatic growth we’ve had over the last 13 to 14 years.”

Eggleton’s affection for the university is widely known across campus and earlier this year she was recognized for her unwavering devotion.

 “Receiving the WKU spirit award was very humbling, I was surprised, overwhelmed by the audience response, very gratifying.”

Eggleton calls the individual recognition of each graduate the most significant change implemented during her tenure. Another tradition was added just last year…giving a red towel to each graduate at the ceremony.

Commencement is scheduled for ten o’clock this Saturday morning at Diddle Arena.

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