Textbooks for Troops

View from the Hill

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For the fifth straight year, WKU has been named a military friendly school. And a free textbook program is a big reason why.

Amy Bingham explains in this week’s View from the Hill.

 “Textbooks for Troops” is a relatively new program offered to WKU’s growing population of more than two thousand active duty military veterans and their family members. It’s a program that loans them their textbooks---for free.

Freshman Megan Gillon went to high school in Fort Stewart Georgia. But had lots of encouragement to spend her college years at WKU.

 “Growing up, my parents, we moved around a lot because my dad’s in the army and we got stationed all over and my parents always talked about Western Kentucky and what a blast they had in college.”

Megan is one of 126 students who saved an average of 400 dollars this semester using the textbooks for troops program.

 “I just came up here and just gave them my schedule and they were so helpful and just looked at it and just handed me my books.”

Military Student Services is located on the fourth floor of Tate Page Hall with a whole room dedicated to the textbook service.

 “As far as I know, there are no other universities in the nation that has that large of a scholarship for books for their students.”

Archey says faculty, staff and students were instrumental in getting the program going and a generous donation from the son of a World War Two veteran allowed it to continue.

An auction is being planned for December 7th to help raise money for the growing program.

 “It’s not a funded program, it’s all donations whether textbook donations or monetary donations and each semester it’s been doubling.”

Archey says it’s the free textbook program that helped give this military friendly school an edge over the competition.

 “I’ll say what made you choose us over other universities and they’ll say free textbooks.”

The Military Friendly designation was done by Victory Media. The Benefit Auction will be held Saturday, December 7th from 1-4 at the Augenstein Alumni Center.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.

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