Hands of the Hill

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If you’re in the market for high quality, hand crafted furniture, a WKU student may have just what your looking for.

In this week’s View from the Hill, Amy Bingham profiles a downtown business venture called “Hands of the hill.”

The Gordon Ford College of Business, Research Foundation and the Center for Research and Design teamed up to host a contest last semester to put an entrepreneur on the path to success.

For the winner, it’s opened up a whole new world of possibilities.

Dressers, tables, even children’s furniture…whatever you need, you can likely get from Hands of the hill.

 “That’s probably where the majority of our business comes from, people come in and see things and want it, in different sizes, different colors.”

Jonathan Randolph, who’se pursuing a masters degree in chemistry, is suddenly a full-fledged business man.

 “I pay the bills and I’ve got to do all the marketing and things like that. It’s definitely nothing that would have ever come up in my science courses.”

Hands of the hill’s plumb location off the beaten path in downtown Bowling Green is rent free for six months thanks to a business contest Randolph entered.

 “I tossed it around for a long time and right before it was due, like most college students, I stayed up til four am finishing it and sent it in.”

The proposal Jonathan sent in was for a location to sell furniture that’s made here at a workshop in Auburn. He’s been working alongside his friend Ivan Overholt for the last ten years.

 “We were doing furniture at the farmers market and of course rainy days and things like that it was really bad to take all the furniture out.”

The response downtown has been terrific.

 “The local businesses around the square have been very supportive. If they want any wood pieces, they come order from me and don’t go anywhere else.”

So now instead of medical school, this crash course in business may set Jonathan on a whole new career path.

 “I’ve really enjoyed the whole business experience that I’ve been working with and I’ve had a lot of opportunities come up, different people talk about different things. So I don’t know, kind of keeping my mind open right now.”

Some of the handmade furniture from Hands of the hill is featured in an exhibit at the Capitol Houchens Gallery through February 16th.

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

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